

Our Lady Catholic Primary School

A Catholic Academy



October 2022

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. It was lovely to welcome parents into school for our workshops and our recent consultations. Having a good understanding of what your children are learning in school will ensure you are able to fully support your child's learning at home. We hope you found both events informative. I am delighted to have seen so many Our Lady children at Education Sunday and the children's Mass this half term. Our close relationship with the Parish is very important to us. I thank you all for your continued support and hope you all enjoy your half term break.

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

Year R: Luna & Jahvai

Year 1: Lourdes & Matthew

Year 2: Louisa & Matilda

Year 3: Eva & Spring

Year 4: Sam & Alexa

Year 5: Wilfred & Emme

Year 6: Alisha-May & Gianni

Staff winners: Miss O'Shea, Miss Talbot & Ms Rodford

House points: As it stands so far...

Fisher - 1099

More - 1046

Campion - 753

Alban - 654

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

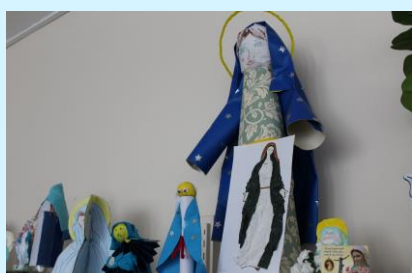
Our Lady Mass

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.



Our Lady Mary art work

Well done to everyone who completed the Our Lady depiction homework. We were amazed by the imaginative ideas and excellent art skills.



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Admissions evening

We will be holding an admissions evening on Tuesday 15th November at 7pm for prospective new parents. The event has been advertised through social media, within the parish and the school community. We have a number of leaflets printed which will be distributed to various locations in the area. If any parents have any local connections and are happy to collect some leaflets for distribution please contact the school office.

Thank you

We would like to thank Evolution Electrical for supplying new banners which we hope you have all seen at the front of the school.



Key dates for parents for the half term ahead

Friday 4th November – Y4 PTA cake sale
Monday 7th November – Hope Christmas shoe box collection
Wednesday 9th November – Flu vaccinations
Friday 11th November – Remembrance service at school 9:15am (Viewing of the OLS poppy field)
Monday 14th November – Individual school photos
Tuesday 15th November – Admissions evening
WB 21st November – Enterprise week
Wednesday 30th November – Chaplaincy Team visit to Westminster Cathedral Carol service
Thursday 1st December – Advent Service at school 9:15am
Monday 5th December – Follow up Flu session
Monday 5th December – PTA meeting after school
Thursday 8th December – KS1 Nativity performance at school 9:30am
Thursday 8th December – Y6 Phase workshop
Friday 9th December – PTA Christmas Fair 3:30pm
Tuesday 13th December – YR Nativity performance at Church 2pm
Wednesday 14th December – Christmas jumper & dinner day
Friday 16th December – Panto visit to school
Monday 19th December – Awards assembly
Tuesday 20th December – End of term. School finishes at 1:30pm

Harvest collection

Thank you for the generous donations towards our Harvest collection. The Chaplaincy team bagged up 15 bags of food which the Hitchin food bank were extremely grateful to receive.



Sporting events

Well done to our football and netball teams who have represented Our Lady School superbly this half term. It has been wonderful to see all our children support each other and work together as a team...and we secured a good few wins along the way! Well done to all and thank you to Mrs Kinsella and Miss McKeown who have lead our teams each week.



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School Improvement Priorities

Following a very successful Ofsted Inspection in July, the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team, teaching and support staff met through the half term regarding school improvement priorities for the year ahead. It was excellent that all stakeholders could be represented through parent and staff governors, foundation governors, members of the school leadership team, teachers & support staff. Our highly successful Ofsted inspection in July 2022, 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 further embed our whole school approach to the implementation of the curriculum.

As a school we want to further strengthen our curriculum implementation 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. This is an area identified by Ofsted as a strength and we would like to further embed this practice across all subject areas ensuring we provide opportunities for committing learning to long term memory within every subject.

- To develop existing practice within Reading & Writing to include more emphasis on the use of ambitious vocabulary and sophisticated language.

Our children have always had a love of reading. We want to help our children grow their vocabulary by exposing them to ambitious words which they can use in their writing to support them to develop into sophisticated writers.

-To further develop the role of behaviour leads and mental health lead and ensure all staff are skilled in supporting children with social or emotional barriers to learning, especially our most vulnerable children.

An increase in the number of children presenting social and emotional barriers to learning has been prevalent since the pandemic began. We want our children to be confident, resilient and happy individuals. We aim to promote positive mental health and equip our young people with the tools and strategies needed to regulate behaviour and access their learning.

'To inspire all to achieve their best everyday'