



# Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026  
[www.ourladys.camden.sch.uk](http://www.ourladys.camden.sch.uk)  
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Go, shine in  
the world and  
live as Jesus  
lived



## Dear parents and carers,

This term's 'Curriculum Information for Parents' leaflet is in your child's book bag today and on the school website. This helpful leaflet explains what your child will be learning this term and how you can support them. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.

**With best wishes, Mrs. O'Reilly (Head of School) and Ms. Richardson (Executive Headteacher)**

**Learning at Home...** At Our Lady's, children take reading books home every week in order to develop a love of reading and to improve their reading fluency. These books include; **independent reading books** - books that children are able to read by themselves, and a **'sharing book'** - this is a book that children have chosen from the class library. The 'sharing book' may be a little bit tricky for your child to read by themselves and is designed to be shared with an adult. Please do listen to your child read and support them to sound out words if they are stuck. Ask them questions too to check that they have understood what they have read. Please initial and date the book titles in your child's reading record.

**Children in Y1-Y6 receive homework on a Friday, to be returned on Wednesday.** Y6 also receive a short daily homework on Monday to Thursday. The purpose of the homework is for children to further practise what they have been learning in the classroom so that children become more confident and fluent.

**It is therefore important that children bring a book bag to school every day,** with their reading books in it, so that they can also practise more reading at school. Help your child to organise themselves by reading every night and returning their reading books to their book bag for the next day.



**Book bags are available from our uniform provider on the school website.**

## Morning Practice - revisiting key learning

**Morning Practice starts at 8:40am in every class.** We are always pleased to see so many children arriving bright and early, ready to make the most of this extra 20 minutes of learning time every day.

The school gates open at 8:40am (or 8am for those attending Breakfast Club), and **we encourage all pupils to be in for morning practice.** This quiet, focused time gives children a chance to revisit key learning and prepare for the day ahead - it is a really valuable part of our school routine.

Reading lessons begin promptly at 9am, so arriving after 8:55am means that your child is not in class, settled and ready for their reading lesson. Attending Morning Practice, ensures your child is settled and ready for the start of day.

Thank you for helping us make mornings smooth, purposeful and positive for everyone.

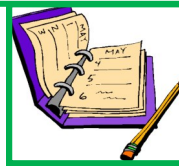


I have received and read the Our Lady's Primary School newsletter of 16.01.2026

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name of child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND YOUR CHILD MIGHT WIN A PRIZE :)**

## Important dates for your diary...



**Thursday 22nd January @ 9.00am - Y3**

leave for mass at Our Lady of Hal - **parents invited**

**Friday 23rd January @ 9.15am - Y2** Prayer Service for parents

**Thursday 29th January @ 9.00am - Y5** leave for mass

at Our Lady of Hal - **parents invited**

**Friday 30th January @ 2:45pm - Y6** Prayer Service for parents

**Friday 30th January - Non Uniform Day** - children donate £1 to charity to wear their own clothes

**Thursday 5th February @ 9.00am - Y4** leave for mass at Our Lady of Hal - **parents invited**

**A reminder...** No nail polish or jewellery - please save this for weekends! If ears are pierced, children may wear stud earrings but no hoops as we don't want any accidents where these are pulled. Thank you for your help with this.



The winner of the Friday newsletter slip prize this week is **Jubair** in **Year 5**.



**Jubair** has won a £5 gift voucher to spend in Waterstones.



Every week, one person from each class is chosen to be **'Person of the week.'** They are chosen due to their excellent attitude and learning behaviour, and for the fantastic work they are producing in class.



### Person of the Week last week was!

Reception - Amayah

Year 1 - Kasey

Year 2 - Joy

Year 3 - Arthur

Year 4 - Bethel

Year 5 - Xitlali

Year 6 - Abimelek



## Our School Prayer

Do not be afraid,  
God will always love you.  
Whatever you have done,  
God will always love you.  
As a father loves his child,  
He will always love you.  
Turn back to him and know,  
God's love lasts forever.

**Amen**



## Best Attendance this week...



For children to learn well and make good progress, it is vital that they attend school every day.

Congratulations to **Year 6** for having the **BEST ATTENDANCE** this week - **100%**

**Year 6** really showed the Christian Value of **Community** by helping their class to have the best attendance this week.

**Please make sure your child is in school every single day.**

**Thank you for your help with this :)**

## Work of the Week!

Every week a fantastic piece of children's work is showcased in the school lobby (next to the office).

This week, Year 5 have been learning about the solar system.

**Lily-Rose** has produced a **clear and accurate diagram of the solar system**, showing excellent scientific understanding.

She confidently explained how **orbits and rotation work**, linking these ideas to how we experience **days and years** on Earth.

**Lily-Rose** was also able to explain how a **leap year every four years** helps make up for the extra quarter of a day.

A fantastic example of thoughtful, well-explained learning.

**Well done, Lily-Rose!**



## Don't let a little worry turn into a big one...

If you or your child are worried about something or have any questions, please phone the school office and book an appointment to see their class teacher, Mr Withers or Mrs O'Reilly.

**We are always really pleased to meet with you and chat things through.**



# OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - SPRING TERM

### The new Religious Education Directory

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, this academic year, we are using the new RED (Religious Education Directory) to teach our Religious Education. It is a new curriculum. Each half term we explore one of the six branches in class. Each branch focuses on a core theme, helping children to grow in their understanding of key aspects of the Catholic faith – including Revelation, Scripture, Life in Christ and Life in the Church. This approach helps pupils learn about their faith in a deeper, more meaningful way and also invites them to reflect on what it means for their own lives. It helps them to see, judge, and act with greater understanding and compassion. In addition to this new curriculum, each half term we will also be talking, learning and thinking about one of the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching in detail. This term the two principles we will be talking about are: 1. Solidarity and Peace and 2. Community and Participation.

Thank-you, as always, for your continued support.

#### Spring: 1<sup>st</sup> half term - Galilee to Jerusalem: (Branch 3)



'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known' (Jn 1:18).

In this branch, pupils will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God. They will reflect on the message of Epiphany in the visit of the Magi.

They will explore what the Kingdom of God is and what it is not.

They will learn from Jesus' words: his teachings, his parables, his New Commandment and from his actions: his miracles and his example. They will learn about how Jesus' life is a revelation of the Kingdom of God and how we can grow the Kingdom of God in our own hearts. Jesus revealed his power, his majesty but also his humility and compassion in what he did and what he said.

The children will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus. They will explore the stories of Jesus revealing his holiness to his friends and their growing faith in him.

The children will learn about inspirational people who followed Jesus' example and help to make God's kingdom on Earth. Catholic Social Teaching encourages Catholics to follow Jesus' example and serve others, e.g. through charitable acts or choosing a career that helps others. Children will learn that we encounter God through the seven sacraments and grow ever closer to him.

#### Spring: 2<sup>nd</sup> half term - From Desert to Garden: (Branch 4)

We will explore Lent's themes of forgiveness and reconciliation and the idea that devotion to God leads a person to do good works. Children will learn about the events of Holy Week, their importance and significance.

By the end of this topic, pupils will understand and articulate key concepts related to forgiveness, reconciliation, and symbols of faith.

The children will learn what Jesus said about forgiveness, including his words on the cross and connect this to the belief that God always forgives us when we are sorry. Pupils will also appreciate that Lent is a special time for reconciliation and forgiveness. They will use age-appropriate religious vocabulary to describe the Sacraments e.g. of Reconciliation and will discuss the symbols of light and water in the Easter Mass. Through creative and critical thinking, they will deepen their thinking by examining works of art to recall Holy Week. They will reflect on the symbolism of light and water, New Life at Easter. In response to their learning, pupils will think about the meaning of forgiveness in their own lives, the impact of bad choices on themselves and others, and the importance of saying sorry. They will reflect on Jesus' teachings about forgiveness, fostering a personal and meaningful connection to these values.

#### Suggestions for home activities

As a family, talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to charity. If you have an older child, you might pop into the church and take part in Stations of the Cross. Ask your child what their Lenten promise might be. Perhaps they will decide to pray every evening before bedtime, thanking God for something. Perhaps they will decide to be more helpful without being asked around the home. Lent is the season of self-giving, not just of material things, but giving of ourselves, giving our time and our spirit.

# **IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**

**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

1 January

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

6 January

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

11 January

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

2 February

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

18 February

**ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

19 March

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

25 March

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

29 March

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

2 April

**GOOD FRIDAY**

3 April



# The Camden Reading Road Map



## Short Story Competition

- Write your own original short story for a chance to win!
- Your story can contain characters from a book you have read before, or characters from your imagination.
- We will judge the stories on— Creativity, originality, use of language and imagination

Winners of the short story competition will have their story printed in a book.

That book will appear on next year's Camden Reading Road Map!



- Submit your story to [ELS@Islington.gov.uk](mailto:ELS@Islington.gov.uk) OR your teacher can request to have them picked up by us at the Education Library Service.
- No more than 500 words.
- Competition ends Friday 24th of April. Winners announced in June.
- Open to Years 3,4,5 and 6.

