



### New Year Welcome

Welcome back and happy New Year to all members of the Our Lady's school community. I trust you that you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas.

I must say the children have come back very positively as usual and their attitudes to learning have been excellent.

### Sacramental Programme

The children in Y3 are beginning their Sacramental Programme this month. This year some of their catechist sessions will be with children from Holy Family. The first session starts this Tuesday at 6pm at Our Lady's Church. Please keep all the children in your prayers throughout the programme.

### Class Assemblies

This term our class assemblies are as follows:

Families and friends of the relevant year groups are of course invited to come along and celebrate with their children.

Date	Year Group
Thursday 18th Jan	Y2
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Y6
Thursday 8th Feb	Y1
Thursday 15th Feb	Y4
Thursday 7th Mar	Y3
Thursday 14th Mar	Y5
Thursday 21st Mar	YR

Assemblies start at 9:05am.

### Number Day

A reminder that on Friday 2nd February, Our Lady's will be taking part in National Number Day. Teachers are busy planning for an action-packed day of Maths and we will be taking part in 'Dress up for Digits'. Pupils are asked to get creative by dressing in a Maths or numbers theme. There are plenty of ideas on the internet to inspire creative costume ideas. We will be having a range of problems for the children to solve. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of £2, and we'd love everyone

in the school to take part in this special event. Payable via Parentpay.

### Y6 & Y2 Assessment Updates & Information

As a school we regularly support our families with the curriculum development of each pupil. As a reminder, this term we will be inviting parents into school to discuss some Y2 and Y6 assessment updates. Further information and details will follow.

#### Dates:

**Y6 Assessment Morning**—Tuesday 9th January at 9:05 am

**Y2 Assessment Morning**—Tuesday 16th January at

9:05 am

### Subject Newsletters

Next week will see the release of our latest newsletter, Geography. We have already released a Religious Education, Maths, MFL, English and Science. RE, EYFS, Computing, English Reading & Phonics, D&T, Art and History will follow this term. All newsletters this year can also be found via the curriculum section of our school website.

<https://www.aspullourladys.wigan.sch.uk/documents>

### Heritage Workshops

#### Friends of Wall Hey – Tower of Strength

A group of upper Key Stage 2 pupils have been invited to participate in an exciting new enrichment for learning programme. The children will be learning about mining heritage in Aspull and the surrounding area. The sessions will be held at the One House in Aspull and will involve working with members of our local community. The sessions will run on Tuesdays for 6 weeks from 9th January until 13th February 2024.

**Young Voices** - Our choir are busy practising for the upcoming Young Voices event in February. The pupils will attend Manchester Arena for what is always an amazing spectacle of music and merriment!

**Junior Speaks** - Our links with our community continue to strengthen year on year. In conjunction with the local Rotary club, Our Lady's will once again be hosting a public speaking competition with several other schools in attendance. Last year, we were honoured to win both first

and second prize and got the opportunity to present our speeches in the Mayor's Parlour. One of our pupils even went on to work with the 'BBC Young Presenter Team.' The standard is always incredibly high and we look forward to what topics our wonderful children will speak about.



### Online-Safety Week

We will be having a particular focus on Online Safety over the next couple of weeks, which is even more important given the amount of time children are spending on the internet nowadays.

Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place at Our Lady's on Wednesday the 7th of February. There will be celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. To support you as parents in safely guiding your child online you could take a look at

[Parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



### Bad Weather Warnings

It is important to remind everybody of our procedures in the case of adverse weather (i.e. heavy snow). Firstly, we will always strive to keep the school open, and I do not intend to close the school unnecessarily. In the unlikely circumstances of closure, you can be kept informed by 'Heart Radio' who provide updates on local school closures on air on 105.4FM as well as on their website. We will update their site [www.heart.co.uk/northwest](http://www.heart.co.uk/northwest) and our own

[www.aspullourladys.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.aspullourladys.wigan.sch.uk) as soon as possible after the decision has been made. We will also seek to use our Parentpay and 'X (Formerly Twitter) facility.

If we do get snow, and we remain open please send your child/ren in with suitable outdoor clothing.



### Wonder Dome

This Friday, our Y1 and Y5 pupils will be experiencing the Wonder Dome. This mobile planetarium is an amazing experience for our pupils and one which they really enjoy.

### Our Lady's Sport



Already this year, we have been incredibly busy with sport at our Lady's. We've already had orienteering sessions, Cricket coaching, rugby, football, cross country & gymnastics to name but a few opportunities and events.

A few weeks ago, a group of Our Lady's pupils competed in a Boccia competition. Following our school's success, our team has now qualified to represent Wigan at the Greater Manchester County Finals. Well done team!

### WigLe Dance

This term, our Y3 pupils begin their dance training in preparation for their dance show at the Edge later in the term. More details to follow about this amazing event.

### Wigan Warriors

This term, Our Lady's continues to use the services of our sports coach and Apprentice, one of whom who is based at our school Monday to Friday. Our pupils have already worked with the staff this year, including various sporting events and our Playleaders at break and lunchtimes. This term, due to dark evenings we will be mainly offering class based clubs to our pupils. Club letters will be released next week.

### Swimming & KS2 Swimming Gala

Our Year 3 children are thoroughly enjoying their weekly swimming lessons and are making great progress. We are also looking forward to our annual KS2 swimming gala to be held on the evening of Thursday 15th February. Further details to follow.

### FIVE WAYS TO BE GREAT – BE WELL TEAM, WIGAN COUNCIL

#### What is the campaign?

“5 ways to Be Great” – We believe that every child should have the opportunity to be fit, active, and healthy, so that's why we have designed our campaign to give them the knowledge and tools to do this. Each day of the week has a theme as follows:

- 1) **Let's Get Movin'** – Partake in Physical Activity
- 2) **Let's Get Kind** – Acts of Kindness
- 3) **Let's Get Cookin'** – Try something new
- 4) **Let's Get Breathin'** – Mindfulness
- 5) **Let's Get Talkin'** – Speak with others

#### Why do Wigan LA need our support?

“Did you know 28% of 4-5-year-olds are Overweight and Obese (That's approximately 10 pupils in a class). By the age of 10 and 11 over 40% of children are Overweight and Obese (That's nearly half the average class).

### Wigan's Healthy Schools Framework



Just before we broke up for Christmas, we received confirmation from Wigan Local Authority that we had been accredited for our work on supporting the 'Health and Wellbeing' within our whole school community.

Adam & Charlie at the Healthy Schools Team, would also like to wish Our Lady's community a Happy New Year.

### Safe Parking

Can I ask again to please be careful when picking up or dropping off on Holly Road. We would politely ask that parents are reminded not to park on the yellow zig zags. As I am sure you would agree the number one priority is the safety of the children, so please be aware of the congestion and the hazardous situations that can arise as a result.

### Parents' Evening



Just to give you as much forewarning as possible; the dates for this term are Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th February. **Bookings can be made from the school website.** A reminder will also be sent out closer to the time.

### Contact Details

Please remember to provide your up to date contact details if they have changed at all. New mobiles for Christmas for example!

### Attendance Matters

As you know we have a huge emphasis on the importance of great school attendance. The last few weeks before Christmas, saw a rise of coughs, colds and viruses. Going forwards though, we are determined to return to the previous excellent attendance and we're sure our families will join us in making this a key priority.

### ***The world is run by those who turn up.***

Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole years from school.

Being late for school reduces learning time.

If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

**Make every minute count !**



## Our Lady's R.C. Primary School

### Dates for Diary 2023/2024

#### Spring Term 2024

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January		Spring 1 Term Starts
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	9:05 a.m.	Y6 Assessment Information Meeting
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	9:05 a.m.	Y2 Assessment Information Meeting
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February		Number Day - NSPCC
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	3:45p.m. – 6:30p.m.	Parents' Evening (all year groups)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	3:45p.m. – 6:00p.m.	Parents' Evening (all year groups)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February		Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February		Young Voices (Choir Members)
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	11:00am	Ash Wednesday Service (led by Y6)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30 a.m. 6:30 -8:30p.m.	Parishioners Coffee Morning Swimming Gala
Week Commencing Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February		Love Your Community Week & 2041 Project Cake Sales during Week - TBC
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February		Half Term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February		Lent Day ( 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent on 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March		GIFT team Lent retreat at St Anthony's
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March		World Book Day
Week Commencing 11 <sup>th</sup> March		Science Week
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	3:35 p.m.	Y1 Phonics Information Workshop
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March		Break the Rules Day
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	3:35p.m.	Term Ends

*Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus.'*

**Thank you - Mr C Horridge - Headteacher**

**'Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right.'**

**Pope Francis quote**



## Our Lady's R.C. Primary School

### Dates for Diary 2023/2024

Summer Term 2024		
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April		Summer 1 Term Starts
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	11:00 a.m.	Easter Service (Y4 to Lead)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May		Bank Holiday
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	11:00am	Ascension Mass (Y6 to Lead)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	3:35 p.m.	Hot Dog Friday
Week Commencing 13 <sup>th</sup> May		Y6 SATs Week
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May		Dr Bike – Details to follow
Week Commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> May		Walk/Cycle to School & Laudato Si Week
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May		Y6 Bikeability Week
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	6:00 p.m.	New Intake Parents' Meeting
Week Commencing 3 <sup>rd</sup> June		Y6 Low Bank Ground
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	2:00p.m.	Walking Day
Week Commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> June		Phonics Screening Week
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	6:15 – 7:15 (KS1) 7:30 – 8:30 (KS2)	FOOLS Wellbeing Disco- TBC
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	9:30 am -12:00pm	KS1 Inter School Sports @ Canon Sharples
Week Commencing 17 <sup>th</sup> June		Refugee Week
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	4:00- 6:00pm	KS2 Inter School Sports @ Our Lady's
Week Commencing 24 <sup>th</sup> June		Diversity Week
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June		Creative Curriculum Day with Aspull Church & St David's
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July		Own Clothes Day – Bring a Bottle for Bottle Tombola
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Summer Gala & Sports Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	3:00 p.m.	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July		Bastille Day
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July		Reports Out
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	11:00 a.m.	End of Year & Y6 Leavers' Mass
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	3:35p.m.	Term Ends

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**Thank you - Mr C Horridge - Headteacher**

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**Pope Francis quote**



# Our Lady's Primary School

Masses, Celebrations and Sacramental Programme for  
2023/24

Date	Event	Time	Venue
21/9/23	Mass - New Term (Led by Y5)	11:00am	School Hall
6/10/23	Parishioners Coffee Morning (Faith Team)?	10.30am	School Hall
1/11/23	Mass- All Saints' (Led by Y6)	11:00am	School Hall
7/12/22	Mass- Advent (Led by Y4)	11:00am	School Hall
8/12/23	Mass - Our Lady's Feast Day (Whole School)	11:00am	Our Lady's Church
13/12/23	Nativity (KS1)	2:00pm 6:00pm	School Hall
18/12/23	Mass - Christmas (Led by Y3)	11:00am	School Hall
15/2/24	Parishioners Coffee Morning (Faith Team)?	10.30am	School Hall
9/1/24	<b>Sacramental Programme Meeting - Community Meeting</b>	6:00pm	Our Lady's Church
3/2/24 4/2/24	<b>Presentation Masses</b>	6:00pm 9:30am 11.15 am	Church - Our Lady's Church - Holy Family
14/2/24	Lenten Service - Including distribution of ashes) (Led by Y5)	10:15am	School Hall
13/3/24	<b>Reconciliation</b>	6:00pm	Church - Our Lady's
18/4/24	Mass - Easter Theme (Led by Y3)	11:00am	School Hall
9/5/24	Ascension Mass (Led by Y6)	11:00am	School Hall
2/6/24	<b>Walking Day</b>	2:00pm	Church - Our Lady's
22/6/24	<b>First Holy Communion</b>	12.00pm	Church - Holy Family
23/6/24	<b>First Holy Communion</b>	3:00pm	Church - Our Lady's
18/7/24	Leavers' Mass and End of School Year Mass (Led by Y6)	11:00am	School Hall

## Class Visits to Church

Mass begins at 9.15am KS1 - offertory KS2-readings

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Pupil Committees
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 9.30am Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 9.30am Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30am	Y5/Y6
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 9.30am Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 9.30am Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30am	Y3/Y4
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 9.30am Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 9.30am Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	YR/Y1/Y2

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Reconciliation	Jan-Feb	<b>9.1.24 6pm at Our Lady's Church</b> Initial Welcome Meeting Parents and Children		Session 1: Thankfulness the Gift of Life.	Session 2: Honesty and Bravery-God is calling you.
	Feb-March		<b>21<sup>st</sup> January during 9.30am Mass</b> – Children's Liturgy  <b>28.2.24 6pm at Holy Family Church</b> Session 3 of Heart Speaks to Heart: Reflection-called to love. Children's meeting	Session 4: Friendship and Respect- turning to God. (complete with children during Lent).	
First Holy Communion	April-May		<b>8.5.23 6pm at Holy Family Church</b> Session 2: Entering God's House. (First Holy Communion Preparation) Children's meeting	Session 4: Stillness- God Speaks His Word  Session 5: Generosity and Gratitude-Jesus offers himself for us.	Session 1: My Life's Journey  Session 3: Love-Holy Mass Begins
	June	9.6.23- reminder and finalisation of arrangements emailed virtually to parents.	<b>12.6.24 6pm at Our Lady's Church</b> Session 6: Courage-food for the Journey. (Last Supper) Children's meeting	Session 7 Reflection: My Journey continues.	
<b>Celebration/Event</b>		<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>	
Presentation		3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> February		6:00pm. Our Lady's or 9:30am Our Lady's	
Reconciliation		Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March		6:00pm. Our Lady's	
Walking Day		Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June		2:00pm. Meet at Our Lady's	
First Holy Communion		Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June		3:00pm. Our Lady's	