



Easter Mass

This Thursday, Year 3 will lead our school community in an Easter Service during. As Father Kevin is on his road to recovery he will unfortunately be unavailable for this service. As always parents/carers are able to attend virtually at 11am via the following [Teams link](#).

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

Pope Francis has released his intention for the month of April 2024, and invites everyone to pray for the role of women.



CAFOD

Again, the fundraising efforts for CAFOD have been nothing short of remarkable. Everyone has done a fantastic job to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves. I am delighted to announce that we have raised a staggering £1100 and counting. All pupils, families and staff should be rightly proud of their efforts. This shows once again the generous and charitable character of our school community. Thanks for the tremendous support. The money raised by the children will go to supporting many families in desperate need.

If you would like to know about who CAFOD are, and how they might spend any funds we raise please visit <https://cafod.org.uk>

Staffing Update

As Headteacher, I write to remind you that I will be leaving my position at Our Lady's at the end of May 2024. As you will be aware, I have recently been offered a new and exciting opportunity within the St Teresa of Calcutta Trust as their Regional Performance Officer, and after careful consideration, I decided to accept this promotion.

Working with the pupils, parents, and staff at Our Lady's has been an incredible experience, and I am truly grateful for the support and collaboration we have shared over the years. It has been an honour to be part of this wonderful school community, and I am proud of the achievements and progress we have made together since I arrived in 2014.

As I transition to my new role within the Trust, please be assured that I remain committed to ensuring a smooth and positive handover. I am working closely with the school leadership team to facilitate a seamless transition for the benefit of the pupils and the entire school community. You will be aware that Mr Cregan was appointed as our new Headteacher from June 2024. I am thrilled at this appointment as he is an excellent and committed leader who will continue to make Our Lady's the great place that is. Very exciting times lay ahead for our wonderful community.

I look forward to staying connected with the Our Lady's community in the future and witnessing the continued growth and success of the school. If you have any questions during this transition period, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you once again for your support and collaboration. It has been a privilege to serve as Headteacher at Our Lady's R.C. Primary School.

Our new Deputy Headteacher appointment process takes place this month and I will keep you posted with important updates.

Summer Term Assessments

May I again remind parents/carers that all children will be doing their assessments in May so attendance is very important. The Y6 children will be doing their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) throughout the week beginning Monday 13th May.

School Places

A reminder that tomorrow (16th April) all parents whose child/ren start school in Reception for academic year 2024/25 will receive notification of school places. WE look forward to welcoming our new families to Our Lady's. A polite reminder that once you have been notified by the Local Authority that you have been allocated a place at Our Lady's you MUST confirm that place by email to enquiries@admin.aspullourlady.s.wigan.sch.uk. If your email can include your child's name, and contact details for parents/carers that would be greatly appreciated.

New Reception Class Meeting

On Wednesday 22nd May at 6:00pm there is a meeting in school for the parents/carers and families of the children joining our Reception class in September 2024. The families of pupils joining us in September 2024 are very welcome to our school and we look forward to meeting you!

Y5 Crucial Crew

Next Tuesday, Y5 will attend a Crucial Crew event the Wigan Army Reserve Centre. Crucial Crew is an innovative and interactive way of delivering health and well-being messages to children. The event encourages model behaviour and good citizenship through active participation in a range of health and safety activities. Professionals from the combined Emergency Services and local agencies will be on hand to instruct children on matters that will teach community values and could save lives. I'm sure that they will have a great time.

FOOLs—Friends of Our Lady's—PTA News

Thanks again to our amazing volunteers who help to raise funds for our school. You will see from our calendar on page 2 that we have an array of events planned for the Summer term:

- ◆ Hot Dog Friday
- ◆ EYFS/KS1 & KS2 Disco
- ◆ School Sports/Gala Day
- ◆

Sun Protection

This may sound optimistic again, particularly after the weather this morning, but we are in the summer term, and I would like to remind parents/carers to put sun cream on their children before school and for your children to also bring a sun hat or cap if possible for dinner and break times, if it is a sunny day.

Attendance Matters

As previously mentioned, the staff and governors regularly review and update our Attendance and Punctuality Policy. Please see our attendance update on page 6.

Class	WB: 18/3/24	WB: 25/3/24
Year R	99.3%	90.4%
Year 1	99.3%	95.8%
Year 2	98.7%	99.2%
Year 3	97%	92.1%
Year 4	95%	97.8%
Year 5	98.1%	90.6%
Year 6	98.5%	87%
Whole School	98%	93.4%

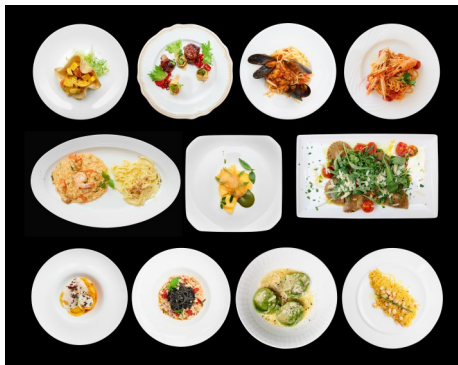


Aspull Schools' Collaborative Curriculum Project

During this Summer term, all classes will be working collaboratively with Aspull Church and St David's. The project will culminate with a short celebration event.

Further details to follow.

Food on a Plate



Starting today, a selection of year 5 pupils will commence this wonderful community initiative. The enrichment for learning project will be exploring local food heritage. The free sessions will be delivered by Bolton Playing for Success and transport is provided. The sessions will run from 1pm until 3pm and the dates and themes are included below. There will also be a family celebration evening on Friday 14th June at Aspull British Legion to share their learning journey.

Monday 15th April – Stone Age – foraging at Haigh Park House

Monday 22nd April – 'In My Little Wigan Garden' – One House

Monday 29th April – organic farming/farm history – Foster's Farm/Farm Shop

No Session – Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

Monday 13th May – Haigh Walled Gardens – Haigh Park

Monday 20th May – New Cultures – Aspull Bindi

Monday 3rd June – One House – bringing it all together – One House

Year 4

Year 4 will be visiting Manchester Airport tomorrow. Please ensure that your child arrives on time tomorrow in order that we can get everyone on the coach in time for the trip.

Our Lady's Sport

After School Enrichment Clubs

On Wednesday, you will receive the enrichment lists for the next section of clubs on offer. The majority of class teacher led clubs will begin in the Summer 2 term.

A reminder that all enrichment for your child/ren must be booked via ParentPay.

Tri Kidz



On Wednesday 12th June, Tri Kidz will again be joining Our Lady's for a day of triathlon disciplines. Years 1-6 will work with the team to learn the skills of being a triathlete and most importantly having lots of fun and exercise. We look forward to working with them again!

Mile in The Morning

This term, we continue with our 'Mile in the Morning' sessions. We would love you to join us from Monday to Friday in the morning from 8:30am on the KS2 yard (weather permitting). Everybody is welcome to come along—parents, grandparents, siblings—to enjoy the fresh air and wake up the body and mind for the day.

Netball Competition

This Thursday 18th April, our Netball team will compete in an Inter Schools competition at Standish High School. Mrs Bithell and her team of former pupil helpers have been helping to prepare the pupils for this fun event.

Upcoming Football Competitions

Lower Key Stage 2 football competition on Wednesday 1st May at Bolton School.

Lower KS2 Football Competition at Laithwaite Park on Friday 17th May

Upper Key Stage 2 Football competition on Thursday 2nd May at Bolton School.

A selection of local schools will join us on Thursday 23rd May for a friendly Inter School Sports football event for Year 5 and Year 6.

PE Kits

A reminder that the children should have their PE kit in school at all times.

Walk to School & Laudato Si/Eco Week



Week commencing 20th May, we will be having a Walk to School & Laudato Si/Eco Week in school. All pupils will receive a walking passport which they can use to walk from home or park and stride to school each day. We will also be taking part in a range of gardening and sustainability initiatives in school that week. More details to follow.

Please follow your child's class on Twitter to see what we are getting up to.

House Team Winners

Each term, the pupils earn house points by working hard and living out our school values: Loving, Positive, Safe, Nurturing, Forgiving, Kind, Respectful and Honest

The winning team then earn a treat in recognition of their achievements. Last term, St Matthew were our winners and will have a special treat shortly. Well done everyone!

Parking Reminder



The yellow zig zag markings on the road outside school are designated as no parking zones. The police and Wigan Council make periodic checks and should you break the law by parking or stopping there, you will be fined. The markings are placed along the school to keep every child safe. By parking on them, the view of pedestrians and drivers is obstructed as well as blocking the road and making it more difficult for pedestrians to cross. Please also be considerate of pedestrians when parking on the pavements – we have been made aware of some dangerous incidents recently. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Our Lady's R.C. Primary School

Dates for Diary 2023/2024

Summer Term 2024		
Monday 15th April		Summer 1 Term Starts
Thursday 18 th April	11:00 a.m.	Easter Service (Y3 to Lead)
Monday 6 th May		Bank Holiday
Thursday 9 th May	11:00am	Ascension Mass (Y6 to Lead)
Friday 10 th May	3:35 p.m.	Hot Dog Friday
Week Commencing 13 th May		Y6 SATs Week
Monday 20 th May		Dr Bike – Details to follow
Week Commencing 20 th May		Walk/Cycle to School & Laudato Si Week
Tuesday 21 st May		Y6 Bikeability Week
Wednesday 22 nd May	6:00 p.m.	New Intake Parents' Meeting
Sunday 2 nd June	2:00p.m.	Walking Day
Week Commencing 3 rd June		Y6 Low Bank Ground
Week Commencing 10 th June		Phonics Screening Week
Friday 14 th June	6:15 – 7:15 (KS1) 7:30 – 8:30 (KS2)	FOOLS Wellbeing Disco- TBC
Week Commencing 17 th June		Refugee Week
Monday 17 th June	9:30 am -12:00pm	KS1 Inter School Sports @ Canon Sharples
Thursday 20 th June	4:00- 6:00pm	KS2 Inter School Sports @ Our Lady's
Week Commencing 24 th June		Diversity Week
Wednesday 26 th June		Creative Curriculum Day with Aspull Church & St David's
Friday 5 th July		Own Clothes Day – Bring a Bottle for Bottle Tombola
Sunday 7 th July	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Summer Gala & Sports Day
Thursday 11 th July	3:00 p.m.	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Monday 15 th July		Bastille Day
Tuesday 16 th July		Reports Out
Thursday 18 th July	11:00 a.m.	End of Year & Y6 Leavers' Mass
Friday 19 th July	3:35p.m.	Term Ends

Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus.'

Thank you - Mr C Horridge - Headteacher

'We all have the duty to do good.'

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	Sacramental Programme Meeting - Community Meeting	6:00pm	Our Lady's Church
3/2/24 4/2/24	Presentation Masses	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	Reconciliation	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	Walking Day	2:00pm	Church - Our Lady's
22/6/24	First Holy Communion	12.00pm	Church - Holy Family
23/6/24	First Holy Communion	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 th September 2023	Pupil Committees
Wednesday 4 th October 9.30am Wednesday 13 th March 9.30am Wednesday 17 th April 9.30am	Y5/Y6
Wednesday 11 th October 9.30am Wednesday 20 th March 9.30am Wednesday 24 th April 9.30am	Y3/Y4
Wednesday 18 th October 9.30am Wednesday 27 th March 9.30am Wednesday 1 st May	YR/Y1/Y2

NB—Awaiting new date for Reconciliation—TBC



Dates for Diary – Sacramental Programme 2023/24



Reconciliation	Jan-Feb	Parent 9.1.24 6pm at Our Lady's Church Initial Welcome Meeting Parents and Children	Children	Home Session 1: Thankfulness the Gift of Life.	School Session 2: Honesty and Bravery-God is calling you.
	Feb-March		21st January during 9.30am Mass – Children's Liturgy 28.2.24 6pm at Holy Family Church 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	Parent	Children 8.5.24 6pm at Holy Family Church Session 2: Entering God's House. (First Holy Communion Preparation) Children's meeting	Home Session 4: Stillness-God Speaks His Word Session 5: Generosity and Gratitude-Jesus offers himself for us.	School Session 1: My Life's Journey Session 3: Love-Holy Mass Begins
	June	9.6.24- reminder and finalisation of arrangements emailed virtually to parents.	12.6.24 6pm at Our Lady's Church Session 6: Courage-food for the Journey. (Last Supper) Children's meeting	Session 7 Reflection: My Journey continues.	
Celebration/Event		Date		Time	
Presentation		3 rd and 4 th February		6:00pm. Our Lady's or 9:30am Our Lady's	
Reconciliation		Wednesday 13 th March		6:00pm. Our Lady's	
Walking Day		Sunday 2 nd June		2:00pm. Meet at Our Lady's	
First Holy Communion		Sunday 23 rd June		3:00pm. Our Lady's	

NB—Awaiting new date for Reconciliation—TBC



Newsletter

www.aspullourlady.s.wigan.sch.uk

Issue No 15

Monday 15th April 2024

Attendance Matters!

As previously mentioned, the staff and governors regularly review and update our Attendance and Punctuality Policy. Our policy includes the commitment that,

'Letters will be sent home termly indicating your child's percentage of attendance as follows:

· Red: 90% and under · Amber: 90.1 – 96.9% · Green: 97 – 100%.'

As per the policy, all children will be issued a record each term, irrespective of previous communication regarding attendance.

At Our Lady's R.C. Primary School, we work hard to ensure that every one of our children reaches their full potential with your support.

The table below explains their attendance.

Category	Attendance	Explanation
Red	90% or Below	Your child's attendance is a concern. DfE class as persistent absence Your child may have a medical condition school are aware of.
Amber	91% - 96%	Your child's attendance is being closely monitored You should take steps to reduce further absence. You should consider contacting school to discuss your child's attendance.
Green	97% -100%	Well done! Your child's attendance is great; we aim for all pupils' attendance to fall into this category Your child's attendance should be celebrated and rewarded.

We are aware that occasionally it may be necessary for children to be absent from school but we ask for your support in ensuring your child's regular attendance. In order for your child to achieve an expected attendance percentage of 97% they should have no more than 6 days absence in any school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you wish for any further support or wish to meet with myself and our Attendance Officer Paul Hersnip to discuss attendance.

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 2 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 !