

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

*We aspire that through the love of Jesus everyone
should "have life and have it to the full."*



NEWSletter

Friday 10th October 2025



The First Joyful Mystery The Annunciation

"The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a young woman named Mary."

Dear God,
thank You for sending the Angel Gabriel to Mary.

Thank You for her **YES** to You.
Help us to listen carefully, just like Mary did,
and to say yes when You ask us to do good things.

May we bring Your love, joy, and peace to everyone we meet today.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Message from Headteacher

As we move through this busy and joyful half term, I want to take a moment to thank everyone in our school community for the many ways you are helping us make a change and be the difference.

From our Harvest donations supporting those in need, to our CAFOD Brighten Up Day raising money to bring clean water to families across the world, to the way our children live out our values of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe each day – together, we are showing what it truly means to put faith into action.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils learning, growing, and showing such kindness and enthusiasm. Each event, from the Rosary reflections to our cake sales, reminds us that small acts of generosity and love really do make a big difference.

Thank you to all our parents, carers, staff, and children for your continued support, care, and commitment to Our Lady's. Let's keep working together to bring hope, joy, and light to others – one small change at a time.

With gratitude and blessings,

Aga Przybylska



Join Our School Vision and Mission Group

We're hoping to bring together a small group of children, parents, staff, and parish members who can meet once a term to reflect on our school vision and mission – where we are now, where we want to go, and how we can live it out each day in our learning, worship, and care for one another.

At first, the group will help review our current vision. Later, we'll look at ways to make sure it truly shapes everything we do at Our Lady's. You don't need to be a practising Catholic or have any special experience – if you care about our children and our school community, we'd love to have you involved.

If you're interested in joining, please let us know in person or contact the office. We'll arrange meeting times that work for everyone.

It would be wonderful to have a range of voices and ideas – everyone brings something special.
(P.S. We'll need a name for our new group... suggestions welcome!)

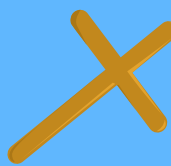
The Rosary in School

On Tuesday 7th October, we joined schools across the world in celebrating Rosary Day as part of the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee 2025. This special day marks the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and our focus has been on praying for peace and unity in our world.

That morning, the whole school gathered in the hall to pray a decade of the Joyful Mysteries together. We reflected on Mary, the Untier of Knots, asking her to take our prayers and intercessions to God for healing and harmony in our world. It was a beautiful and prayerful moment for our school family, joining over one million children across the globe in prayer.

We will continue this special devotion each Wednesday morning, praying another decade of the Joyful Mysteries together. We warmly invite parents and carers to join us in the hall straight after drop-off and registration at 8:55am. You are welcome to come directly to the hall after dropping your child off.

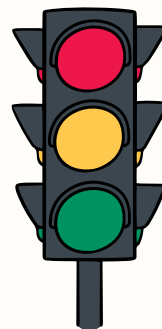
Let us continue to pray together as a community of faith, hope, and love.



🙏 Come Pray the Rosary with Us
All Parents & Carers are welcome
A Time for Peace, Reflection,
and Community
Wednesdays at 8:55am in the
Hall

Keeping Our Children Safe on the Roads

As some of our older pupils begin walking or cycling home on their own, we kindly ask parents and carers to speak with their children about road safety. Please remind them to always cross at a zebra crossing or traffic lights, to look both ways before crossing, and never to run across the road.



Children who cycle or scoot should wear a helmet and take extra care near busy areas. We want every child to stay safe and confident on their journey to and from school. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our children safe.



This week Attendance

Whole School - 95.95%

Reception	96.5%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	95.7%
★ Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	95.6%
Year 6	96.4%

Attendance & Punctuality



At Our Lady's, we place great importance on good attendance and punctuality. Every school day matters, and arriving on time helps children start their learning calmly and confidently alongside their classmates. Regular attendance ensures that pupils make the most of every opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Please remember that holidays during term time cannot be authorised, as time away from school has a significant impact on children's learning and progress. We ask for your support in arranging family holidays during school breaks only.

Together, by valuing every school day and arriving punctually, we can give our children the very best start in life.



Gate Opening Times

Our school day runs from 8:50am to 3:20pm. To ensure children are supervised safely on arrival, the school gates will open at 8:45am each morning, with children going straight to their classrooms ready for the start of the school day at 8:50am. In the afternoons, the gates will open at **3:15pm**, ready for dismissal at **3:20pm**.

We know that previously the gates opened earlier, and some families may have become used to this. However, this created challenges around safeguarding and staff responsibilities. Teachers were being required to supervise children earlier, and our teaching assistants, who play a vital role in ensuring children are safe, do not begin work until 8:45am. This meant that at times children were on site without the full staff team available to support them, which is not something we can continue.

By opening the gates at **8:45am** each day, we can:

Ensure children are supervised and safe at all times

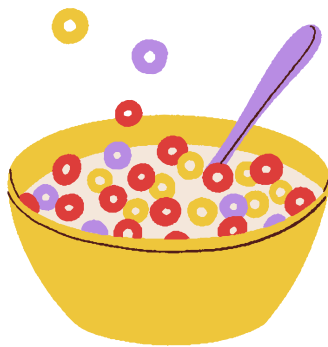
Keep arrangements consistent and fair for families and staff

Support a smooth and calm start to learning at **8:50am**.

These arrangements will come into effect from Monday 3rd November 2025 (after half term).

Breakfast & After-school Club

AFTER



For families who require an earlier drop-off or later collection, we continue to run our Breakfast Club from **7:45am** and our After-School Club until **5:15pm**.

We appreciate that this may mean some families will need to adjust routines, and we thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Our priority is always the safety, wellbeing and learning of all children.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

✝ First Holy Communion Preparation – Year 3 ✝

We are delighted to share that we will once again be offering a programme of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion here at Our Lady's School for children currently in Year 3.

First Holy Communion is a very special step in your child's journey of faith, and we are blessed to be able to support this through after-school preparation classes held at school. The preparation sessions will take place during the spring term, with exact dates and times to be confirmed closer to the time. It is important that children attend every session once the programme begins.

Our First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Saturday 6th June 2026 at 10:00am.

🌈 'Brighten Up' Day – Friday 7th November 🌈

On Friday 7th November, we will be holding a “Wear What You Like – Brighten Up Day” to raise money for CAFOD, a charity that helps people living in poverty around the world.

Children are invited to come to school wearing their brightest, most colourful clothes and to make a £1 donation via ParentPay. All the money raised will go directly to CAFOD's appeal, which this year focuses on providing water tanks for communities experiencing drought.

£35 can provide clean water for one family

£750 can provide water for an entire community

This special day links beautifully with our Autumn 2 Catholic Social Teaching theme – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

Together, we can make a real difference and help bring hope and life to others around the world.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support. Let's make Our Lady's shine bright for CAFOD! 🧡





Cake Sales Are Back!

Our wonderful PTA are bringing back our much-loved Cake Sales this term to raise funds for extra resources and special experiences for our children. Each week, one class will take the lead in providing and selling cakes.

We'll begin with Year 1 on Thursday 17th October, and then continue each week with a new class. Please check the school calendar for your class's date.

We are asking parents in the class of the week to:

Bring in cakes on the morning of your class's sale. Please send them in with your child so they can be collected and set up ready for the afternoon.

(Home-made or shop-bought – both are very welcome!)

Help sell cakes at the end of the day, from 3.00pm onwards. If you can lend a hand, please come to school via the Boycott Road entrance to assist with setting up and serving.

Please note: cakes should not be sold before the end of the school day.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity – these events are always great fun and make a real difference for our children!

Parents' Evenings

Looking ahead, Parents' Evening bookings will open on Arbor from 10th October.

Letters with further details will be sent home next week.

Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 15th October and Wednesday 22nd October. Bookings can be made easily through the Arbor app.

Harvest Festival – Helping Those in Need



As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are collecting dry food donations to support those in need within our local community. Over the next two weeks, we invite all children to bring in an item or two of non-perishable food – such as tins, packets, pasta, rice, or cereal.

All donations will be shared with local charities and food banks who provide essential support to families.

Your kindness and generosity will help us make a real difference to others this Harvest time.

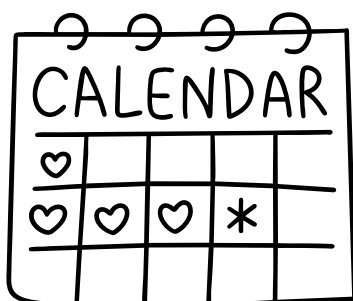
Let's come together as a school family to share what we have and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

Upcoming Events



October

- 14th - Toys through time visit Y1
- 15th - Rosary Pray 8.55am *Parents invited*
- 15th - Parents Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm
- 16th - Harvest Assembly YR & Y1 at 2.30pm *Parents invited*
- 17th - Cake Sale Y1 at 3.20pm
- 22nd - Parents Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm
- 23rd - Non-Uniform Day - Bring a bottle
- 23rd - Harvest Supper Y6 & YR Buddies at 2.30pm *Parents invited*
- 23rd - Cake Sale Y2 at 3.20pm
- 24th - **INSET DAY - school closed**
- 27th - 31st - **HALF TERM**



November

- 3rd - First day of term 2
- 5th - Trip to Queenswood YR & Y6
- 7th - Non-Uniform Day - Brighten up for CAFOD
- 7th - Cake Sale Y3 at 3.20pm
- 11th - Individual photographs
- 14th - Cake Sale Y4 at 3.20pm
- 21st - Cake Sale Y5 at 3.20pm
- 28th - Healthy lifestyles talk with School Nurse Y1 & Y2
- 28th - Whole school DISCO



December

- 1st - Trip to Belmont Abbey Y6
- 2nd - Trip to Dinmore Hill Christmas Tree Farm YR
- 5th - YR, Y1 and Y2 visit MESC - Santa
- 5th - Cake Sale Y6 at 3.20pm
- 10th - Nativity EYFS and Y1 *Parents invited*
- 11th - School Christmas Lunch Day
- 11th - Advent Assembly Y2 *Parents invited*
- 12th - Advent Assembly Y3 *Parents invited*
- 12th - Cake Sale EYFS at 3.20pm
- 15th - Advent Assembly Y4 *Parents invited*
- 16th - 4Front Theatre - *Herald of Herod*
- 16th - Advent Assembly Y5 *Parents invited*
- 17th - Advent Assembly Y6 *Parents invited*
- 17th - Key Stage 2 Evening Carol Service *Parents invited*
- 19th - **LAST DAY**



Celebration



Well done to all our children who received a Gold Award and our Virtue Award this week.

We are so proud of you—keep up the wonderful effort!



Congratulations!

Year Group	Virtues Award	Golden Awards	
Year R	Year R	Year R	Year R
Year 1	Freyja	Adam	Julietta
Year 2	Ewa	Joey	Alex
Year 3	Levison	Alina R	Tomasz
Year 4	<u>Edzen</u>	Karma	
Year 5	Mila	Lucy	Maddox
Year 6	Lena	Maya	Joshua



Courses for Parents

Triple P and Solihull Positive Parenting Programs

TeenTripleP

For parents of 11-16 years, helping you to support your teenager effectively.

Dates: 20th January – 25th February – Tuesday

Times: 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Virtual (online)

StandardTripleP

For parents of 2-11 years, helping you support your child effectively.

Dates: 20th January – 24th February – Tuesday

Times: 10:00 – 12:00

Place: Virtual (online)

SteppingStonesTripleP

For parents of 2-11 years with SEND, focusing on effective parenting skills and problem solving.

Dates: 20th January – 24th February – 10:00- 12:00
OR 17th March – 14th April Tuesday - 18:00 – 20:00

Place: Virtual (online)

Fear-LessTripleP

For parents of 6-14 years with anxiety, focusing on effective strategies to support them to manage their anxiety.

Dates: 21st January -February

4th Times: 18:00 – 20:00

Place: Virtual (online)

SolihullParentingGroup

For parents of 0+, focusing on developing nurturing relationships with your children and improving your parents-child relationship.

Dates: 13th January – 17th February

Once a week for 6 weeks

Times: 09:30 – 11:30

Place: Riverside Primary School, Hereford

parentinggroups@herefordshire.gov.uk



Children's Help and Advice Team - 01432 260 261



Self-referrals only

Groups may be cancelled if participant numbers are low.