

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 5th December 2025



Stillness and Waiting

Loving God,

As we enter this season of Advent,
help us to slow down and find moments
of stillness

in the busyness of our days.

Teach us to pause, to breathe, and to
make space for You.

In our waiting, open our hearts to hope.

In our preparing, fill us with peace.

In our listening, help us hear Your quiet
voice.

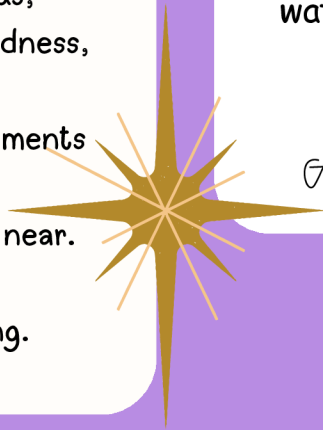
As we await the birth of Jesus,
may our homes be places of kindness,
patience, and joy.

Guide us to notice the small moments
of light

that remind us You are always near.

Come, Lord Jesus,
and be with us in our waiting.

Amen.



Message from Headteacher

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent,
we also begin to draw close to the end of my
first term at Our Lady's—a term that has
been wonderfully busy, full of learning, joy,
and community spirit. With just two weeks
until Christmas, Advent invites us to pause,
reflect, and be still, even for a moment, in
the midst of Christmas shopping,
preparations, and the busyness of our daily
lives. It is a precious time of waiting and
watching for something truly special—the
birth of Baby Jesus.

Aga Przybylska



A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA

Last week, the children enjoyed our whole school disco, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mark and Sian and the whole PTFA for organising such a fantastic event. Our children absolutely loved it!

Before the disco, we held a non-uniform day where children brought in generous donations for our **Christmas hamper raffle**. If you would still like to donate, we are gratefully accepting bottles, chocolates, gifts, or unused items for the hampers. Don't forget—you can buy raffle tickets online for **£1** each, and you're welcome to purchase as many as you wish. The more tickets you buy, the greater your chance of winning and the more funds we raise for the school.

Travel Crib



As Advent continues, I truly hope your families are enjoying our Travel Crib, using it at home as a chance to pause together, reflect, and find moments of peace amid the excitement and preparation for Christmas.



Confession

Some of our children also had the opportunity to make their Confession with Fr John, who shared how impressed he was with the children—their reverence, seriousness, and thoughtful reflection.

Christmas Fun

Dinmore Hill Christmas Tree Farm

In the spirit of Christmas preparations, our Reception children brought back a beautiful Christmas tree from their trip to Dinmore Hill Christmas Tree Farm, and it is now proudly displayed and decorated in our school hall.



Santa's Grotto

Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 also enjoyed a magical visit to Madley, where they met Santa in his grotto and returned full of stories—and of course, with presents in hand!

Christmas Hamper Raffle Don't Miss Out!

Our beautifully filled Christmas Hampers are ready—and they are packed with festive treats, gifts, chocolates, bottles, and surprises! A huge thank you to everyone who has already donated items; your generosity has helped create some truly wonderful prizes.

Raffle tickets are just £1 each and can be purchased online. You can buy as many as you like—every ticket increases your chances of winning a fantastic hamper and helps raise valuable funds for our school.

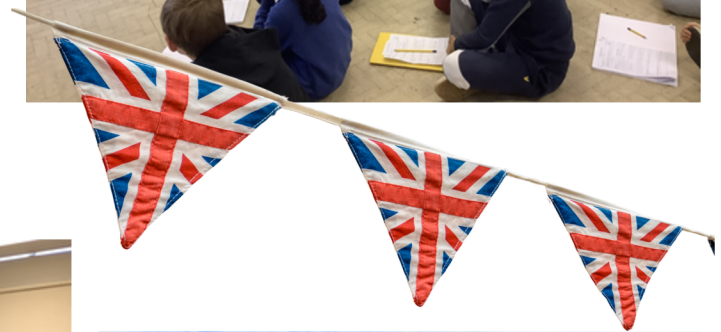
All money raised goes directly back to the children, supporting extra resources, experiences, and opportunities across the school.

Thank you for your support, and good luck!



Parliamentary-style Debate

Finally, as part of their learning on British Values, our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been studying the UK Parliament and the British democratic system. Their hard work culminated in an impressive parliamentary-style debate held in the school hall. Both classes presented strong, thoughtful arguments and showed excellent respect, listening, and participation. Well done to Years 5 and 6 for such a mature and spirited debate.



Belmont Abbey Visit

Our Year 6 pupils visited Belmont Abbey, where Fr John gave them a tour and was once again impressed by the depth of their questions. One pupil asked how many angels were represented in the abbey church. Fr John kindly went around the entire church, counting them all, and emailed us the official total:

- Nave of the church: 10 carvings
- North side of the church: 3 in the stained glass windows
- Saint David's chapel: 11 carvings
- Organ: 2 carvings
- Saint Joseph's chapel: 2 carvings
- East end of the church: 2 carvings; reredos 28 carvings; 12 in the stained glass windows
- Our Lady's chapel: 15 carvings; 13 in the stained glass windows
- monks choir area: 14 carvings; 4 in paintings
- Saint Benedict's chapel: 7 carvings
- South side of the church: 4 in the stained glass windows
- Total number of carvings: 91
- Total number in the windows: 32
- Total number in paintings: 4
- **GRAND TOTAL OF ANGELS: 127.**

The three archangels are: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. The abbey church is dedicated to Saint Michael and all the Angels

Gabriel's name means: Man of God

Michael's name means: Who is like God

Raphael's name means: God has healed as in the book of Tobit (OT) Raphael gives sight back to a man who has been blinded by putting the scales of a fish on his eyes.

We are so grateful to Fr John for taking the time to give such a detailed and thoughtful response.



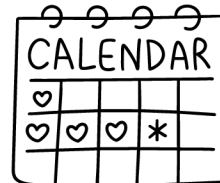
Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 11th December



We're looking forward to celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 11th December. Children are invited to come to school wearing their favourite festive jumper—bright, sparkly, homemade, or cosy! This is always a joyful day that brings lots of smiles and helps us get into the Christmas spirit together. We can't wait to see all the wonderful jumpers!

Upcoming Events

December



8th - Whole School Mass at 9.30am

10th - Nursery Carol singing at 9.10am *Parents invited*

10th - Nativity EYFS and Y1 at 9.30am *Parents invited*

11th - School Christmas Lunch Day - Christmas Jumper day

11th - Advent Assembly Y2 at 9.00am *Parents invited*

12th - Advent Assembly Y3 at 9.00am *Parents invited*

12th - Cake Sale EYFS at 3.20pm

15th - Advent Assembly Y4 at 9.00 *Parents invited*

16th - 4Front Theatre - *Herald of Herod*

16th - Advent Assembly Y5 at 9am *Parents invited*

17th - Advent Assembly Y6 at 9am *Parents invited*

17th - Key Stage 2 Evening Carol Service at 6pm *Parents invited*

19th - **LAST DAY**



January

5th - INSET Day - no children, staff only

6th - **FIRST DAY BACK**