



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School  
September 2022

### **New Term 2023**

Dear families of Our Lady's,

We have been busy ensuring that every child feels secure and that learning is having an impact. Last week the full timetable was not in place but this week our PE and music teachers will be in school. Each class teacher will let you know when the children will need to wear their PE kits.

A reminder that it is extremely important that all uniform is clearly marked with your child's name – you really would not believe how many items are left behind daily and weekly in school.

### **Welcome to our new children and families**

Our Reception children have been visiting and will be in school full time from today. As a whole school, pupils and staff, we are all looking at ways to ensure that our newest children and their families feel welcomed and settle in as quickly as possible into our school family. We look forward to sharing our school and all that we do with you.



**Pre loved Uniform.** We do have lots of high quality uniform available. Please do consider purchasing this. A selection is held in the corridor near to the dining hall. It can be accessed each morning before school and at pick up. You can make a voluntary contribution to Cafod by dropping this off at the school office. If you can't find the item you are looking for on the hangers speak to our admin staff who may be possibly holding sizes you are seeking in storage.

This week across the UK is Education Sunday. It is one of the oldest days of special prayer for those who are educated and those who educate them in Catholic Schools. This year is the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this celebration. As a school we will be learning more about the very long tradition of Catholic schools in this country.

### **Catholic School Values**

Our faith values drive all that we are and all that we do. This half term we are focussing



on refreshing and focussing children in our values and helping each of them to be the best leader that they can be. We help each child to understand that they are unique and that they have strengths and areas of learning; no one is perfect and no one should feel the pressure to be perfect. Being the best you can be and building your schools for you and for others is our focus. In all areas of school life we encourage children to reflect on what they can do well and what they can do next to further build their skills.

#### **Right Choice – Wrong Choice**

This may sound like a detail that is

not relevant but it is a very important part of our faith life. Each child is loved at all times. As they develop, learn and grow they may make mistakes. This is part of learning. In a faith school we consider that each child is always loved. Always. If we use language such a bad or naughty we can feed into a blame and shame culture. At Our Lady's we encourage children to recognise that at all times they are good – their behaviour is either right or wrong. Each day we start again with yesterday's learning behind us.

### **Encouraging Respect, Care and Love**

Last week our focus from The Gospel was to talk to all children about being leaders. What makes a leader that others will trust and follow? How in our classrooms and across our schools can we show through our actions and words that we are being positive leaders.

One of our important rules is that if we do make a wrong choice we do work to be honest about this and we work to learn from it. We learn that if someone makes a wrong choice then we don't have the right to make a wrong choice back again.

This might sound that we give in and accept any behaviour that is wrong. Absolutely not. Firstly we have a very strong focus on what we want to see and what we should be seeing and we promote and celebrate this all of the time.

But we can never move forward if children are going to hold on to hurt, anger, shame. Our culture is about learning and love. It is about forgiveness and more learning. It is love in action.



### **Formal Leadership Roles**

Over the next few weeks Year 5 and 6 will begin to take up special roles as leaders across our school. Year 5 will be our buddies and play leaders. Year 6 our prefects, lunchtime and assembly monitors as well as our school librarians and play equipment monitors. Year 6 will also be presenting to our key stage 2 pupils who will be contributing to the decision on who takes up the roles of Head and Deputy pupils.

### **Lunchtime Reception and Key Stage 1**

In school we have also been adjusting the lunchtime routine so that Reception, Year 1 and 2 will all arrive into lunch together and be seated from 12.00. They will go up to the serving hatch table by table. This means less queuing and waiting. They will all stay in the hall until 12.30 so that they all have enough time to eat their food before going outside for their lunchtime play. It also means that there will be more staff in the lunch hall to support children with cutting and eating their food as well as in helping them to chat with each other as part of the lunch experience.



The famous saying is that it takes a village to raise a child but growing wisdom recognises that it also takes a village to support that child's parent. We encourage all families to know that we are here to support you on your child's journey as much as we are here to support your child. We work closely with lots of agencies across the community and have lots of contacts and knowledge on

ways to support families. Over this term we will be sharing information about local and national agencies and resources for families.

## **Dates for this half term**

Choir starts this week on a Thursday lunchtime. This is open to all children in KS2.

After school sports clubs will start next week, and details of these will be sent out to the classes involved later this week.

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> September – Mel Jones photography to take individual and sibling photos in school, plus a reception class group photo

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> October 2pm – open afternoon for next year's reception intake. Please do share this date with anyone you know who has a child starting reception class in September 2024.

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> October – 2-3pm SENCO drop-in coffee afternoon in the church hall (further details to follow)

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> October – 3.10/3/15pm break up for half term

School opens after half term Tues 31<sup>st</sup> October 8.45am.