Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
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School Newsletter

(for parents, pupils, governors, staff and parishioners)

Friday 5th December 2025

What's in this Newsletter:

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Key Dates:

December 10th: Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumpers
December 12th: KS1 Nativity at 1:45pm
December 16th: KS2 Carols at 5:30pm
December 17th: Year 5 Mini Police Presentation at 2:30pm
December 18th: PTFA Christmas Grotto
December 19th: Last day of term
January 5th: Children return to school

Message from Mrs Wilson:

Well, we are fully in the Christmas spirit. Just over the last week we have held our first ever wreath making session with some mulled wine and mince pies, the PTFA have carried out the Christmas Secret Room, the Christmas Fayre has taken place, advent begun with our Advent collective worship on the 1st, and I have Christmas carols stuck in my head. The nativity and the carol concert are going to be a real treat for you - make sure you have the dates in your diary!

I want to say a massive thank you to the parents who regularly show and advocate for this school. Our Lady of Lourdes is a very unique and special school and on a wonderful journey. Many of you showed your love for this school through either your verbal feedback or the parental questionnaires. It's lovely to know that so many of you recognise this school as being just as special as I do; we are one community, one family!
I will share the outcomes from the questionnaires and respond to any additional comments so that parents can gain some understanding around the context of the school and some of the decisions that are made.

A reminder that one of the aims, and I know many of you agree, is to improve parental communications and involvement in the school life. One thing I have done is send out a newsletter bi-weekly. On top of this, as a school we have introduced and are still building on it, our use of school dojos. School Dojos is a great way to keep up to date with not only school life, but also the activities your child gets up to in class. I know lots of apps can be required for schools now and understand that it can be frustrating, however online systems are now more used to reduce the paper use and keep you more up to date than you ever would have before.

As always, please do come and speak to either myself or another member of the SLT on the school gate, or reach out to your class teacher if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Stay safe and healthy in these weather changes.

'Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.'
(Pope Francis)

Mrs Wilson

Festive Menu Campaign 2025

We would like to share with you our caterer's AiP, special Festive Campaign menus for the whole of next week. These choices were imported into SFU a number of weeks ago.

APART FROM our Christmas Dinner day on Wednesday 10th December, there will also be an additional choice of pasta with tomato sauce, as well as our usual jacket potato, or deli option.

Unfortunately, there will be no tuna available next week.

If you have already informed us that your child has a special diet due to allergies etc, please be assured that any of the meals that your child chooses for next week will be specifically tailored to their individual dietary requirements.

Christmas Grotto

Watch this space because Santa will be flying by in the last week of the term to give the children a gift!

OLOL Foodbank!

Don't forget the OLOL foodbank is situated in the school foyer. Please help yourself to any items, if needed. There's no need to ask!

Any further donations of non-perishable goods/items would be greatly appreciated.

Proposed Admission Arrangements Consultation for 2027-2028

As a school, we have been battling to maintain pupil numbers for a period of time. This is a national issue due to a decline in birth rates, which has resulted in fewer children in our local area requiring school places. As a result of this, we have made the decision as a school to adjust our Published Admission Number (PAN), for our September Reception Class intake, from September 2027. This means we can:

- Ensure we maintain appropriate class sizes with a focus on supporting high-quality teaching and learning.
- Use our resources effectively to benefit all our pupils.
- Plan sustainably for the future needs of the school community.

This change has been carefully considered and discussed with our governing body and local authority. We remain fully committed to providing an excellent education for every child in our care.

Please see the official statement from the governing body below, which can also be found on the 'Admissions' page of our school website.

The governing body of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, is consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for the 2027-28 school year. The proposed change from the existing arrangements is a decrease in the Published Admission Number, from 30 to 15:

Comments are not being sought on the rest of the arrangements.

You are invited to provide any comments you may wish for consideration on the proposed arrangements by 12.00pm Noon on 31st January 2026. Final arrangements will be determined by 28 February 2026 and will appear on the school/trust website by 15 March 2026.

Comments should be sent to Joan Curran (Our Chair of Governors) at the following email address admin@olol.org.uk and:-

Joan Curran
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
Hanham Road
Kingswood
Bristol
BS15 8PX

Yours faithfully
J Curran and M Wilson
Mrs Joan Curran (Chair of Governors) and Mrs Meg Wilson (Headteacher)

Preparing for Advent in OLOL

As we enter the holy season of Advent, our school community has been focusing on the four traditional themes that guide us as we prepare for the birth of Jesus: **peace, hope, joy and love**. These values help the children to reflect on the true meaning of Advent and to think about how they can bring Christ's light into the world.

Our Chaplaincy Team has worked thoughtfully and prayerfully to write a series of Advent prayers based on these themes. Their words have been shared in the Advent display near the front of the school. The prayer for hope has been included for you to reflect on at home if you wish.

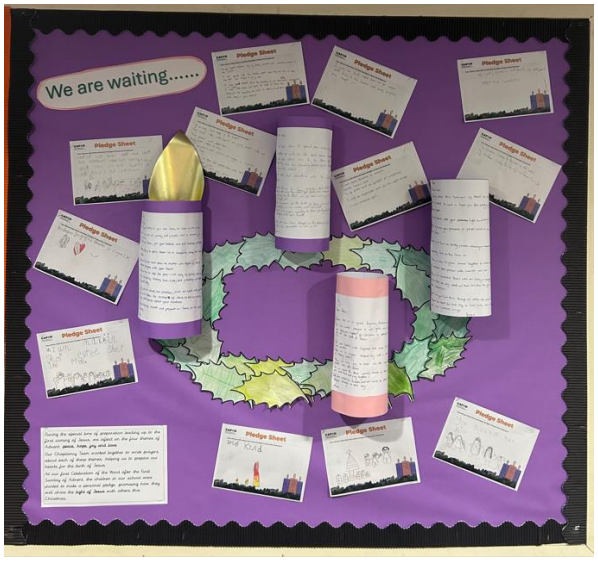
During our first Celebration of the Word after the First Sunday of Advent, children across the school were invited to make a personal Advent pledge. Each child reflected on how they could share the **light of Jesus** with others this Christmas—through kindness, generosity, forgiveness, and acts of love within their families, classrooms, and wider community.

Preparing the children for Advent is a central part of Catholic life in our school, and this year we are delighted to welcome **Matt Robinson**, Chaplain of St Gregory's in Bath. Matt will lead a **KS2 service of Reconciliation**, offering children the opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal during this special season. He will also guide a **separate Advent service for KS1 and EYFS**, helping our younger children to understand the message of Advent in an accessible and meaningful way.

In the final week of term, we will gather as a whole school for our **Christingle service** (more information to follow next week). Each child will bring their Christingle, and together we will celebrate the coming of Jesus—the Light of the World. This beautiful tradition helps the children to understand the symbolism of Christingle and to recognise Christ's guiding light in their own lives.

We look forward to sharing this journey of hope and preparation with you and thank you for supporting your children in any Advent reflections at home. May this special season bring peace, joy, and blessings to all our families.

Mr Hamlen



A Prayer of Hope:
Dear God,
As we enter this season of Advent, we come together as a school to wait in hope for the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Fill our hearts with Your light so we bring hope to one another.
Help us to see Your presence in the people around us and in the kindness we share.
Teach us to love our family, friends, and everyone in our community, just as You love us.
Show us how to grow closer together, to include everyone, and to welcome each person with warmth and care.
Help us to remember those who are lonely or struggling, and guide us to share not only what we have, but also the gift of friendship and compassion.
Lord, let Your love shine through our words and actions this Advent.
Prepare our hearts for the joy of Jesus' birth, and help us to spread His love wherever we go.
Amen.

Reading Challenge
We really want to encourage bring a love for reading amongst there children here. As an incentive for this, we will be celebrating the children reading at home.
The aim is for children to read at least 5 times a week! We ask that you, or they record each read in their Yellow Reading Record. This will be tracked by the teacher and children will be rewards at 40, 80 and 160 reads. Although many children who love to read may read more than once a day, one read a day will be counted towards the challenge total.

Attendance
Whole School attendance this week is: 92.29%- We have some work to do!
The class with the best attendance this week is: Year 5 with 97.3%!