Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
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School Newsletter

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

Friday 19th December 2025

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Key Dates:

December 19th: Last day of term
January 5th: Children return to school
January 6th: School Mass for Epiphany 9:30am, parents welcome
January 26th: Scholastic Book Fair Returns
February 13th: Last day of term

Parish Dates:

December 24th: Carol Service 3:30pm & Mass for Christmas Eve 4:00pm
December 25th: Mass for Christmas Day 10:30am

Message from Mrs Wilson:

Another term down and my first Christmas term here at OLOL. What a very special term it has been. I have been lucky enough to see our choir perform at the residential home, Christmas Dinner, the Christmas grotto with a special visitor, the KS1 Nativity, the KS2 carol performance and Christingle. I honestly have been so proud to be a part of this school, witnessing the Christmas magic! I was taken away by how packed the church was during the KS2 performance!

We ended the term with our first end of term SHINE worship. This is a slightly longer celebration collective worship- and chance for the children to be recognised for wider things. Teachers select 2 children from each class, each term, who have: shown a positive attitude to learning, have made outstanding progress, and they pick a piece of work from the term that has really impressed them. We also select children from both KS1 and KS2 who have shown respectful and compassionate behaviours during break times. It is also a chance for us to celebrate those children who have been in school every day and have 100% attendance for the term- what an achievement! Those who have 98% and above also receive a certificate. This is such a big success especially as there have been many unpleasant bugs going around.

As we approach the end of term, we want to take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of Jesus reminds us of God's greatest gift – His love for each one of us. Just as the shepherds and wise men travelled to meet the newborn King, we pray that this season brings your family closer together in faith, hope and joy. As you enjoy the festivities with your families, we encourage you to: stay safe, travel safe and look after one another.

On behalf of everyone here, Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new term!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

Mrs Wilson

Children's Homework Projects

I have been absolutely blown away by the efforts that have been put into some of the homework projects! Some of the children really have gone ALL OUT! Each term, the teachers set a project that the children can chose to do. It's a project that allows the children to put their creativity into practise and possibly encourage family time and co-operation. I know many of you spent time together with your child to create the project. One parent even commented that it has been lovely because usually they are really busy, but this has given the opportunity to sit and focus on something with their child- and that's what it's all about. It is a busy world, and sometimes we just need to take times to slow down and be in the moment with our children- I know my boys ask for more of my time!

Christingle

Yesterday, the whole school came together for a beautiful Christingle celebration as part of our preparations for Christmas. Every child made their own Christingle and brought it with them to a special service held in the school hall. The service was thoughtfully led by our wonderful Chaplaincy Team, who helped us reflect on the meaning of the Christingle and the light of Christ in our lives.

Each class brought forward two Christingles, which were lit to represent every person in our school community. The hall was filled with a warm, prayerful atmosphere as the candles shone brightly. We ended the service by singing *This Little Light*, which sounded amazing and was sung with great joy and enthusiasm. The light of Christ was certainly shining brightly through each of our fabulous children, making it a truly special and memorable celebration for all.

Throughout this special season of Advent, our school community has taken time to listen carefully to the Sunday Gospel and reflect on its message together. Each week, the children have lived out a mission inspired by the Gospel reading, carrying its meaning into their daily actions both in school and beyond. Through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness, the children have shown a growing understanding of how we are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. This Advent journey has been a meaningful time of faith, reflection, and service as we continue to walk together in hope and love.

Loving God,
as we come to the end of this school term and begin our Christmas holidays,
we thank You for the gift of our families and for the time we can spend together.
Bless our homes with Your peace,
fill our hearts with joy, patience, and love,
and help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas:
the birth of Your Son, Jesus, our Light and our Hope.
Keep all our families safe as we rest, travel, and celebrate.
May our words be kind, our actions loving,
and our homes places where Christ is welcomed and shared.
We ask that those who find this time difficult may feel Your comfort
and care, and that no one feels alone during the Christmas season.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Mr Hamlen

Christmas Grotto
We had a visitor this week! Father Christmas came to visit the school and deliver a gift to each of the children. The children loved it, and some of them even had a 'story time with Santa'. Once again, a huge thank you to the PTFA who constantly work hard and volunteer their time to ensure the children of OLOL have great opportunities.

Reading Challenge
We really want to encourage bring a love for reading amongst their 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.

Parking Reminder
We would like to take this time to politely remind everyone that unfortunately, there are still situations where some are parking illegally or without thought of the impact on others. I urge us to all get on board and work together on this. The safety of the children here is always a priority and that includes how we park around the school during drop offs and pick- ups. Please also be mindful that Mr Ellacott, our caretaker, is also trying to keep children safe and therefore if he is reminding you not to park on zigzags and/or double yellow- he is trying to ensure the safety of the children- please do not swear at him!
Thank you to the vast majority of you who park with consideration of our children's safety and the respect of our neighbours during busy drop-off and pick-up times.

Primary School Applications 2026 Entry
The closing date for applications to transfer to primary school in September 2026 is 15 January 2026.
Applications can be submitted online via the South Gloucestershire Council Citizen Portal
Pupils with an EHCP do not apply in this way – the parent / carer must liaise with their Lead Worker in our 0-25 Team.
Submitting applications after the deadline (late) greatly reduces the chances of being offered a place at the preferred school(s) therefore, please submit an application before midnight on 15 January 2026. Attendance at an adjoining pre-school or having a sibling in attendance does not guarantee an offer.

Term 2 SHINE Awards

Positive Attitude to learning:
R: Trevor, Takunda
1: Oakley, Liam
2: Favour, Jovannah
3: Noa, Bailea
4: Laniya, Harley
5: Jayla, Charlene
6: Kaylin, Moses

Outstanding Progress:
R: Peter, Jersey
1: Basmala, Fumnanya
2: Shaunaya, Deborah
3: Andre, Alexandrina
4: Mili, Celeste
5: Ruby, Dion
6: Chisom, Isaac

Glowing Work of the Term:
R: Noah
1: Naeso
2: Obi,
3. Effa
4: Kosi
5: Mei Qi
6: Harper – Rose

Lunchtime Stars:
KS1: Jersey and Alex
KS2: Tilly and Neo

Attendance
Whole School attendance this week is: 91.85%- We still have some work to do!
The class with the best attendance this week is: Year 3 with 98.89!

The class with the best attendance for the term is Year 1. They are invited to wear non-uniform on Friday 9th January.