

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

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School Newsletter

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

Friday 20th March 2026

What's in this Newsletter:

- **Key Dates**
- **Message from Head Teacher**
- **Catholic Life of the School**
- **Cinema Trip**
- **SHINE Assembly**
- **Attendance**

Key Dates:

March 24th: Class photographs

March 27th: Choir trip

March 30th: KS1 Bugfest

April 1st: Last day of term

April 2nd: Inset day

April 20th: Term 5 begins

Message from Mrs Wilson:

What a wonderful fortnight it has been at Our Lady of Lourdes! It's been lovely opening up the field this week because of such amazing weather. I am writing with such pride and joy following our first ever whole school trip - a milestone moment that truly showcased the very best of our school community.

For many of our pupils, this was their first experience of leaving for a school trip and going to the cinema. Making memories at school has always been one of my favourite parts of education, so being able to create these experiences for our pupils is something to truly celebrate. Your children represented our school values magnificently! I witnessed older pupils supporting younger children with such kindness, reminding us all of the compassion at the heart of our Catholic ethos. The children demonstrated respect for each other, for the adults supporting them, and for the cinema staff. Their curiosity and enthusiasm were wonderful to see, and their resilience during the lovely up-hill walk home was brilliant.

I'm pleased to report we only had a couple of minor first aid incidents - with the biggest one being one of our parent helpers who decided to go on her own kind of trip. (I promised her I wouldn't share photographic evidence!).

Thank you to our incredible staff and all our parent helpers who made this trip possible, and to you, our families, for your support in preparing the children for this adventure. Moments like these remind us why we do what we do.

Thank you also to those of you who joined us for parents' evening. It was wonderful to meet with many of you and share in celebrating your children's achievements and progress. These conversations are invaluable. They help us work together as partners in your child's education. If you weren't able to attend, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative time to catch up.

I look forward to sharing more celebrations with you in the coming weeks.

Mrs Wilson

Catholic Life of the School

At the start of each week, our school community continues to gather together to share our weekly school mission, which is rooted in the Sunday Gospel reading. This Monday, the children reflected on Jesus' call to *"Go and build a community where everyone belongs."*

Through class discussion and prayer, pupils thought carefully about how we can live this out in our daily lives. Together, we explored simple but powerful ways to follow Jesus' example:

- Notice people who are overlooked
- Look carefully around you
- Is there someone who feels left out, quiet or sad?
- Make an effort to include them

The children have shown real thoughtfulness as they considered how to make our school a place where everyone feels valued and welcomed.

As we look towards Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's liturgical year, we will be marking this sacred time with special opportunities for prayer and reflection. On Monday 30th March, the whole school will join together to share an acted-out version of the Palm Sunday Gospel. The children will take active roles by waving palms, welcoming Jesus, and sharing artwork and images—including pictures of donkeys—to help bring the story to life.

On the Wednesday of Holy Week, pupils will be guided through moments of quiet reflection as we journey with Jesus through the Stations of the Cross, thinking about His final days on Earth as Man. This will be a meaningful time for the children to pause, pray and prepare their hearts for Easter.

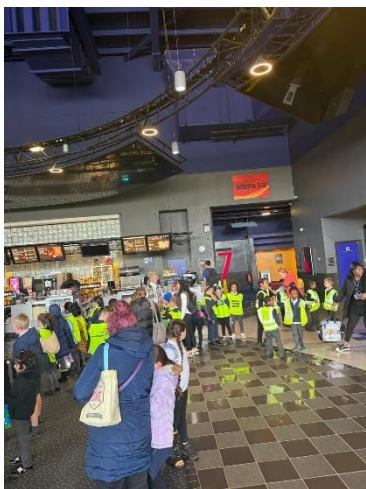
We thank our families for supporting our mission of living out the Gospel in all we do. Together, we continue to grow in faith, love and community.

Mr Hamlen

Cinema Trip

What a treat it was to have our first whole school trip to the cinema to watch *Paddington in Peru*! The children loved it and were incredibly behaved.

Paddington's journey to find his Aunt Lucy reminded us all of the importance of family, adventure, and never giving up – values we see in our own school community every day. Now to plan the next one!



SHINE Assembly: Our children always SHINE Bright. These are our children SHINING this week and last week.



Attendance

Whole School attendance this week is: 93.5%.

The class with the best attendance this week is: Year 6 with 97.9%. Well done Year 6!

Every Minute Counts!

Small Absences. Big Impact!

- Missing just 10 minutes a day → 1 week of learning lost per year
- Missing 1 day every 2 weeks → 4 weeks of learning lost per year
- 90% attendance (sounds good, right?) → It's half a day every week missed → Or 4 full weeks of school per year
- Arriving just 10 minutes late each day → 3 days of learning lost per year

When children miss school regularly, they might:

- In secondary school: Poor attendance makes getting good GCSEs harder
- In the workplace: Employers value reliability & good attendance

For friendships and social development: Going to school helps children make friends and feel part of a team