



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Learning to Love: Loving to Learn



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Issue 1: Friday 7th September 2018

WELCOME BACK

Dear parents, children, staff and parishioners,

On behalf of all the staff I welcome you to the beginning of another school year at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School. We extend a warm welcome to Joe and Daisy, and to Kyle, and their families, who have joined us for the start of this year. We will also be joined by two additional members of staff from Princethorpe College. As you know, we have lost the very talented Deb Brookes from the college, but we now have two additional teachers to teach across the school, as well as our dance teacher, Miss Amanda. We are delighted to have this expertise to support us in strengthening further our curriculum. It is also a great way to strengthen our links with the college.

We ask for God's blessings on our school as we prepare for all the exciting learning opportunities that lie ahead. On Wednesday we are excited to welcome our new Reception children and parents. We can't wait to see all the children for their first morning of school – the very best of luck!

Last year was one of incredible success for the school; we want the very best for your children and look forward to continuing with our school improvement.

Please feel free to come and have chat when you see me on the gate in the morning and afternoon. Alternatively you may book an appointment through the office.

It has been such a wonderful first week back. The children have been exceptionally well behaved and learning focused. What a pleasure it is to work at Our Lady's.

Happy Birthday to Mary Our Mother!

Today we celebrated our school feast day. Fr Teddy said a lovely Mass for us this morning. The children sung beautifully and read with reverence.



Reminder - leave of absence during time term

Please see information attached to this newsletter.

Class Dojo



The classes in Key Stage Two use a system called Class Dojo, to help keep track of their behaviour and achievements. The children have enjoyed meeting their avatar monsters, and seeing how many house points they can collect! The system also allows you as parents to view your child's behaviour report, pictures

of their work and information about your child's day to day learning. You can also directly message staff.

Many parents commented last year on how helpful it is. Sign up details with parent and pupil codes will be given to you by your child's class teacher; you can download it as an app on your iphone or tablet or access it on a computer. If you have any queries, please ask your child's teacher.

Big Spell

Years 2-6, please hang fire with learning your next big spell list! We are making some changes to our big spell which we will communicate with you soon!

PE

Please can the children have their full kits in every day. Trainers must also be in as the children will be running. This half term Reception, year 1 and year 2 will be taught multi skills and dance; years 3 and 4 will be taught swimming and hockey and years 5 and 6 will be taught invasion games and hockey. We will be taking part in competitions throughout the year. I will keep you posted once the fixtures have been set.

Curriculum Information

We are in the process of updated the year group information on the website. You will be able to find out what your child is learning by visiting the site.

This week's special mentions

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

This week's attendance figures

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6



The children know that they need to work hard again this year to show the value of respect. They will receive respect tokens to go towards a whole class treat once their jar is full!



The themes for this Autumn term are:

Year 5 and 6: Heroes and Villains of the Second World War

Year 3 and 4: Lunar Explorers

Year 1 and 2: All About Me

Attendance

Attendance is crucial. Please ensure that your child arrives in time for registration please. Lateness is disruptive for all involved. Thank you.

Special Celebratory Start of Year Mass

Sunday 9th September at 10:15, we will be having a Mass at Our Lady of the Angels' Chapel at Princethorpe. It will be a wonderful celebration and I would like to extend the invitation to you all; we are all one family, and so even if you are not a Catholic, it would be wonderful to see you.

Individual and family group photos

These will take place on **Tuesday 25th September**. The children should make an effort to look extra smart, remembering ties and school jumpers.



Birthday gift reminder

Non-school uniform may be worn by children on their birthday or the school day nearest to their birthday! This way everyone in the school community will know straight away that it is their special day. If your child's birthday is in the holidays or at the weekend, they may wear their own clothes on the Monday after or on the Friday before.

Harvest

We are collecting for Food Bank again. I will send out further information about the sorts of food we will be collecting. Thank you in advance.

Swimming Year 3 and 4

Swimming starts next Tuesday 11th and continues each week until December.

The form that was sent out this week must be sent back no later than Monday 10th, as we need your permission before we can take your child. Thank you.

Dates for the year

I am in the process of finalising a few more dates and then I will send you an overview for the year. This will be with you next week.

School Grown Produce

We have lots of produce to sell again and will do so after school next week at the bottom gate. We ask just for a donation. All donations will go towards school chickens.

Class Groupings in KS2

We have mixed year groups, as you know. But to keep class sizes small, I employ an extra junior teacher, Mrs Commins, and I, myself teach also for one session. What this means is that instead of just having two teachers across the juniors, we have at least three teachers, and four when I am teaching. This means that the children have lots of extra attention and support and can be easily challenged. At the end of the term I sent out a booklet explaining that these groups are not about ability. They are about class sizes (for English we have four year groups and three teachers for example) and other factors that are carefully thought about. For example, if a child has done particularly well with a particular teacher, he or she may be given more time with that teacher, rather than having a change.

Two weeks at a glance:

Sunday 9th:

Mass 10:15 Princethorpe

All clubs start this week

PE kits (indoor and out must be in school every day now)

Monday 10th:

Eco-Warrior assembly

Year 5 and 6 PE

Tuesday 11th:

Swimming Years 3 and 4. Dance Years 1 and 2

Wednesday 12th:

Reception children to start

Year 1 and 2 PE

Basketball for juniors starts

Friday 14th:

Year 5 and 6 PE

Year 3 and 4 PE

Monday 17th:

Mission assembly

Tuesday 18th:

Rugby in Bloom Ben Hall Presentation

Friday 21st:

Head boy and head girl whole school vote

Best of luck to all the children taking their 11+ ☺

Have a wonderful weekend. **Kate Madia**

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary,

We honour you on this feast day of your beloved Mother, your most faithful disciple.

Together with you in the glory of heaven, Queen of Heaven, she is for us

Mother of the Church. Amen.



Think of the week:

(A beguiling question that stops you in your tracks and makes you think...)

Are dogs capable of loving? Do cats love less than dogs?



AT OUR LADY'S WE ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN. WE EXPECT ALL STAFF, PARENTS AND VISITORS TO SHARE THIS COMMITMENT.



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EMBRACING THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH CHILD THROUGH THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE

LEARNING TO LOVE; LOVING TO LEARN... ★

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