Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School Newsletter



21st October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, it is wonderful to look back on all that has taken place over the past seven weeks. It has been particularly pleasing to see our new Reception and Nursery children becoming part of school life, growing in independence, developing friendships and making the most of the experiences on offer. Across the school, the children have enjoyed a wide range of learning opportunities, visits, trips and extra-curricular activities, all of which contribute so much to their wider development. There has certainly been plenty to celebrate, and it has been lovely to see the enthusiasm with which the children have approached the new school year.

One of the highlights of this week has been our Open Morning for prospective Reception families. It was a pleasure to welcome so many visitors and share with them what makes Our Lady of the Rosary such a special place. There is so much to be proud of, from the quality of teaching and learning to the opportunities available to our children, but perhaps most importantly, the strong sense of community and care that runs throughout our school. Our children and staff are undoubtedly our greatest ambassadors, and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase the very best of school life. Choosing a school is such an important decision for families, and we hope that our visitors left with a real sense of the values, ethos and relationships that make Our Lady of the Rosary the school it is.

As we look ahead to the second half of the autumn term, there is plenty more to look forward to, particularly as we begin our preparations for Advent and Christmas. I wish all our children, families and staff a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

God Bless
Mrs. McCarthy

Catholic Life of our School

Pupil Chaplaincy Team

Our Year 6 Pupil Chaplaincy Team plays an important part in the Catholic life of Our Lady of the Rosary, helping to ensure that prayer, faith and service remain at the heart of all that we do. Each member of the team applied for this special role, writing a letter explaining why they wanted to become a Pupil Chaplain and what they felt they could contribute. Their commitment to serving others and helping children across the school grow in faith is something of which they can be very proud. As part of their ministry, our Pupil Chaplains have committed to serving as readers at school Masses and liturgies, taking an active role in sharing the Word of God. They also support the planning and leading of prayer, celebrations and activities across the school, helping other children to participate in and deepen their own faith. Through their leadership, our Pupil Chaplains remind us that living out our faith is not simply about what we say, but about the example we set and the ways in which we serve others. We are proud of the contribution they are making to the spiritual life of our school.



Catholic Life of our School

October: The Month of the Holy Rosary

October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a particularly special devotion for us at Our Lady of the Rosary. Throughout the month, children across the school have been praying the Rosary as part of their class worship, reflecting on important moments in the lives of Jesus and Mary. The children in Key Stage 2 had a special opportunity to pray the Rosary with the parish's travelling statue of Our Lady. Inspired by a tradition from Goa, the statue is shared between homes during October, bringing families and neighbours together in prayer.





Sunday 25th October 2026
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 13:10-17



"And all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him."

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus meets a woman who has been unable to stand upright for eighteen years. He heals her on the Sabbath, despite objections from the synagogue leader, showing that helping others and treating people with compassion should always come first.

The Gospel reminds us that Jesus notices those who are struggling and responds with kindness and love. His actions bring joy not only to the woman but also to those around her.

As we reflect on this Gospel with our children, we can encourage them to think about how their own actions can bring happiness to others. Through offering help, including someone who feels left out or simply sharing a kind word, we can all follow Jesus' example and make a positive difference.

Safeguarding

Online Safety During Half Term

With half term approaching, children may be spending more time online, whether playing games, watching videos or communicating with friends. While technology offers many opportunities for enjoyment and learning, it is important that parents and carers remain aware of the content children are accessing and who they may be interacting with. Even games and apps designed for younger children can include messaging features or opportunities to communicate with strangers.

We encourage families to review privacy settings, check age restrictions and maintain clear boundaries around screen time. Limiting the amount of time children spend on devices is important for their physical and emotional wellbeing, particularly when it comes to protecting sleep and encouraging physical activity.

Offering alternatives such as outdoor play, reading, board games, creative activities or simply spending time together as a family can help children develop a healthy balance.

Taking an interest in children's online activities and keeping conversations open will also help them feel comfortable sharing anything that worries or upsets them. Above all, children should know that they can always turn to a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Contact Info

We want to remind all members of our school community that we have a dedicated safeguarding email address, monitored exclusively by Mrs McCarthy. This email is a safe and confidential way to:

Ask for help

Report a concern

Seek advice or guidance

Please do not hesitate to reach out if something doesn't feel right or you need support. No issue is too small, and every concern wil be treated with care and sensitivity.

Email: dsl@olrs.co.uk

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for...
MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!



GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you *do* want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.



Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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As we reach the end of this half term, we say a fond farewell to Lynn, who is retiring after many 22 years at Our Lady of the Rosary. Lynn began her time with us supporting children in the classroom before moving into our wraparound care provision, managing Cool Club and, more recently, Early Risers.
We wish Lynn a very happy and well-deserved retirement and all the best for the years ahead!



Moving forward, Mrs. Hawkes will take over the running of our Early Riser's Breakfast Club. She is looking forward to welcoming the children each morning.

Mrs. Chang-Taylor will continue to be a key adult in Cool Club. Next half term, she will be supported by school support staff including Mrs. Hawkes and Ms. Lathrope.

Making the Most of Our School Website

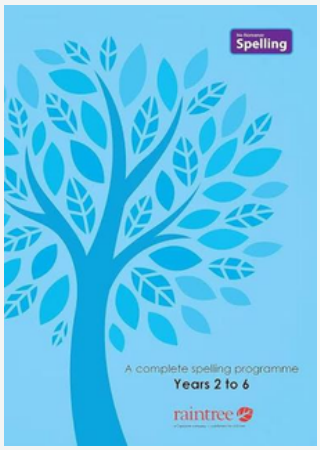
Our school website contains a wealth of resources designed to help parents and carers understand what their children are learning in school and how they can support them at home. We have worked hard to make a wide range of information easily accessible, and we would encourage families to take some time to explore what is available.

Each class page contains a termly curriculum newsletter, giving parents and carers a detailed overview of what their children will be learning in every subject throughout the term. These pages also include useful links to resources and guidance to support learning at home, particularly in reading, spelling and maths.

Our 'How Can I Help My Child?' section is another particularly useful area of the website. These pages cover a range of topics relating to children's development and wellbeing, including sleep, toileting and emotional regulation. There are also pages about homework, spelling, reading and maths. They provide practical advice and information to help families navigate some of the challenges that can arise as children grow and develop.

For parents and carers who would like to explore our curriculum in greater depth, our subject pages provide a whole-school overview of each subject. These include curriculum maps showing what is taught across the year groups, alongside progression documents explaining how children's knowledge and skills develop as they move through the school. This is a useful way to see how learning builds from one year to the next and how the different stages of our curriculum fit together.







Celebrations and Achievements

Congratulations to Evie, who has achieved her red belt in karate! Evie has been working hard at her karate club, developing her skills. A wonderful achievement and a reflection of her commitment and dedication.



Golden Ticket

Each week, children who have put exceptional effort into their learning and produced work that reflects their personal best are awarded a 'Golden Ticket'. They bring their work to show Mrs. McCarthy, receive a very special golden Sticker, and have their name added to our Golden Book in recognition of their achievement.

Mateo -Using amazing adjectives to describe a picture.

Billy - Wonderful use of adjectives to describe animals.

Clara - Fabulous RE learning all about how to be a steward of God's Creation.

Salvador - Super character description using expanded noun phrases.

Mateo– Magnificent maths learning about adding 10s to three digit numbers.

Lara - Impressive geography learning about the Amazon rainforest.

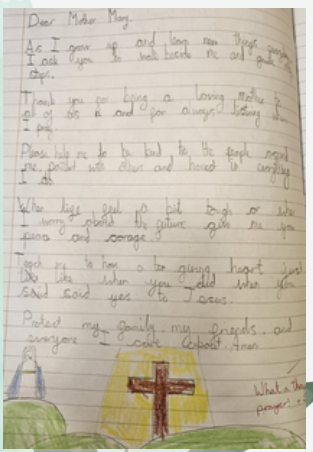
Hania - Fantastic learning about the structure of a rainforest.

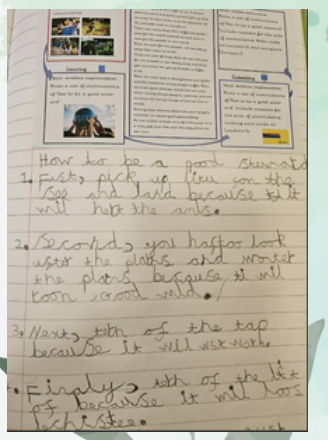
George - A wonderful infographic about the destruction of the Amazon rainforest.

Daniel - An amazingly well written prayer to Our Lady.

James- A thoughful, reflective prayer to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Oliver - Beautiful handwriting, showing care and attention in his learning.





School Uniform

Following the half-term break, children should return to school wearing their winter uniform.

Please see the requirements below:

- Boys: Grey trousers, white shirt, school tie, branded school jumper and grey socks.
- Girls: Grey skirt, white shirt, school tie, branded school cardigan, and grey socks or grey tights.

Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 should wear an elasticated school tie, while children in Years 3 to 6 should wear a traditional school tie.

As the weather becomes colder, please ensure that children have a suitable warm, waterproof coat. This should be a school coat or a **navy** equivalent. Winter hats should be school branded or in school colours . Scarves and gloves should be **grey or navy**. **Please note that ear muffs are not permitted.**

Please also ensure that all items of clothing, particularly coats, hats, jumpers and cardigans, are clearly named.

All children should also have a pair of named wellies in school. Outdoor learning is an important part of school life and having suitable footwear available means that children can access our outdoor spaces throughout the year, whatever the weather.

Reminders

Park Avenue

Following concerns raised by local residents about congestion, parking and driving around the school, we would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of being considerate towards our neighbours and keeping our children safe.

Please drive slowly and carefully, park responsibly and avoid blocking driveways, junctions or pavements. Where possible, we encourage families to walk to school or park a little further away and walk the final part of their journey.

At collection time, please avoid forming a queue that extends around the corner onto Park Avenue. There is no requirement to queue, and we encourage parents to gather along the pathway between the school and Park Avenue, keeping access clear for pedestrians. Arriving closer to collection time will also help reduce congestion.

We work hard to maintain positive relationships with our local residents and appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to keep our school surroundings safe and considerate for all.



Attendance

Good attendance is one of the most important foundations for success at school. Being in school every day means more than simply not missing lessons. It allows children to keep up with their learning, develop secure friendships, take part fully in school life and feel that they belong. Even occasional days of absence can quickly add up and create gaps in learning that can be difficult to recover.

A few important reminders:

- Absence due to illness should be reported through Studybugs. Please ensure that the Studybugs app is downloaded and ready to use. Absence should be reported on each day that a child is unable to attend school.
- Medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside school hours wherever possible. Where this is genuinely not possible, appointments should be arranged to avoid morning or afternoon registration so that the minimum amount of learning is missed.
- Please email the school office in advance with details of appointments and provide supporting evidence where available.
- Term-time leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, in line with government guidance.

Congratulations to Reception and Year 5, who have achieved 100% attendance this week and to Year 4 who had 100% last week! Well done also to Year 3, who are still leading the way with 99.3% attendance for the year to date.

	Last week	This week	Year to Date
Year R	99.3.7%	100.00%	98.40%
Year 1	99.30%	91%	97.30%
Year 2	97.90%	96.00%	97.30%
Year 3	99.30%	98.90%	99.30%
Year 4	100%	95.70%	98.40%
Year 5	99.10%	100.00%	99.20%
Year 6	96.30%	98.90%	96.40%

Upcoming Events

2nd November	School re-opens after half term
4th November	PTA meeting 7pm
6th November	Mass for Holy Souls 9am, in school hall
13th November	Year 4 Class Mass
20th November	Year 5 Class Mass
20th November	Share my work afternoon ,2.15pm (Years 1-6)
24th & 26th November	Parents Evening (Years 1-6)

Upcoming Events

27th November	Year 3 Class Mass
30th November	St. Andrew's Day (wear something blue with uniform)
4th December	Reception - Stay, Play & Read 9am
5th December	Parish Christmas Fair
8th December	KS2 Carol Concert 5.30pm,Our Lady of the Rosary Church
9 & 10th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Play 9.30am
18th December	End of term