

Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Primary School's

12th January 2024

Dear Parents

I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break. On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you all for your kind wishes, gifts and message of support. We really are grateful that we have such supportive families.

Thank you for your donations on Christmas jumper day and for the Nativity retiring collection – we raised a total of £430.06 for Kalomo.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas disco. The children had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed the games and dancing.

There is a reminder in this newsletter about uniform, hairstyles, school equipment and attendance. Please make sure that your child is following the expectations.

Dates for your diary

Monday 15th January – Year 4 continue with Swimming this week

Monday 15th January- Closure for Primary School Applications

Tuesday 23rd January – PTA meeting at 6.00pm in school.

Friday 2nd February – Candlemas in Church led by Year 3.

Tuesday 6th February – Safer Internet Day in school. The theme for this year is 'Inspiring Change'

Friday 9th February – Break the Rules Day. Finish for half term at 3.20pm / 3.30pm

Monday 19th February –INSET DAY- School Closed

Tuesday 20th February – School re-opens.

Term Time Leave

Leave in term time is granted for **exceptional circumstances** only. Unauthorised leave of 5 days or more may attract a penalty notice from LCC. The fine is presented to both parents regardless of who has taken the child/ren out of school. Please see our Attendance Policy for further guidance. <https://ourlady-st-edwards.lancs.sch.uk/policies/>

Class Collective Worship

Reception Thursday 8th February in school at 9.00am

Year 1 Tuesday 26th March End of Term Assembly in school at 9.10am

Year 2 Thursday 1st February in school at 9.00am

Year 3 Friday 2nd February Candlemas in Church at 9.15am

Year 4 Thursday 28th March End of Term Assembly in school at 9.10am

Year 5 Thursday 21st March in school at 9.00am

Year 6 Wednesday 27th March End of Term Mass in Church at 9.15am

Online Safety

As you are aware, we take online safety in school very seriously. It is a continuous priority and part of our on-going curriculum using the Government recommended 'Project Evolve' resources. A reminder that all children should be supervised when using digital devices and accessing online material at home and regular checks on their devices should be made. We appreciate all your support in being vigilant. Please continue to highlight any concerns to staff.

Many thanks, Miss Birch

Attendance and Punctuality

Please check your child's attendance on Arbor.

A guide to attendance rate is that attendance between 99% and 100% is excellent, 96.1% - 98.9% is good, 92-96% requires improvement and below 92% is a cause for concern. The Department for Education states that pupils whose attendance is 90% and below will be considered as persistent absentees. We will continue to monitor all attendance below 90%. Our persistent absentee rate is currently 6.6% which is 14 children.

I realise that absence may be unavoidable in the case of illness and all I ask is that you make every effort to maintain good attendance. Good attendance ensures continuity of learning and is a factor in determining good progress. If there are specific issues affecting your child's attendance that we need to be aware of or that we can influence, please let me know and we will endeavour to assist.

A reminder that the school gates close at 8.55 and pupils arriving after 8.55am need to enter through the main school doors. If a pupil arrives after 9.00am then a parent or adult must sign them in via our electronic system. Registers are taken at 8.55am and lessons begin at 9.00am. It is important that pupils are on time for the register at 8.55am.

TenTen Newsletter

As a school we subscribe to the TenTen resources which we use in assemblies, class worship and staff prayer. Please read the newsletters each month as they provide useful information and spiritual guidance, supporting the work we do in school. Below is a link to the parent newsletter

www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

Value of the Month

This month, we will be looking at and exploring the meaning of **Peace**. Please talk about this with your child so that they have an understanding that peace comes from within us including having positive thoughts about ourselves and others. It is also being aware of God's presence in our lives.

Reminder Regarding School Uniform and Other Rules

Please see below details of uniform expectations. If in doubt please call into the school office where you will be able to see samples. All uniform is available at 'Bang Bang' uniform shop in Preston City Centre and online from Stitch Design www.stitchdesign.co.uk

- Trousers, skirts, shorts and pinafores should be **grey NOT black**
- Cardigans and sweaters should have the school logo
- **School shoes** should be a **full shoe with secure fastenings** and **not slip on shoes**. Trainers should not be worn to and from school.
- PE kits should be **blue school PE shorts or skort** in KS2. Cycling shorts are not allowed. House Team T-shirts only.
- School caps & hats are available from Bang Bang - Legionnaire's cap aimed at the KS1 children, and baseball cap aimed at the KS2 children. Mrs Kippax does keep a small stock of caps throughout the year.
- **Extreme hairstyles** are **not permitted** in school which includes any shaved shapes/partings. If hair clippers are used, no lower than a number 2 is allowed on any part of the head and hair should be a blended cut with no ridges or lines. An excess of hair gel is also not allowed. Girls hair accessories are to be in school/hair colours only and of a reasonable size.
- **Ear-rings** are not permitted in school. Anyone who has had their ears pierced during the holidays and is waiting for the 6 weeks before they can be removed must cover their ear-rings with plasters.
- **Sunglasses are not permitted** in school (unless permission has previously been granted for medical purposes).
- A reminder too that all drinks bottles brought into school should only be filled with water – no juice.
- Due to the limited space in EYFS & KS1 classrooms only school blue bags and drawstring PE bags should be brought into school in these classes. At times when children are required to bring additional equipment into school, eg extra-curricular sports kit, they should bring it in a small carrier bag.
- Children in KS2 can bring in a rucksack instead of the school blue bag. PE kits should be in a separate drawstring bag and must be in school at all times.

Behaviour in school

I would like to express how impressed we are with the behaviour of the children in school. Observations and encounters around school clearly show how much the children care for each other, are respectful towards staff and have beautiful manners. The behaviour and attitudes of the children are often commented on by visitors to school and it is always nice to share this with our families. Thank you for working with us on this.

Holy Sacraments

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation - the dates for these sacraments have been arranged for Thursday May 16th at 6pm for First Reconciliation and for Saturday May 18th at 11am for First Holy Communion. Pupils in Year 3 who have been baptised Catholic are invited to receive the sacraments. Lessons and instruction will take place in school and will be delivered by Miss Lawson. Letters have been sent home for parents to acknowledge their interest and support. Please return the reply slip as soon as possible so that we can order the books.

Confirmation - TBC

PTA News

Bags to School – Save all your used clothing for after half term. Bags can be dropped off after school on Monday 4th March, all day Tuesday 5th March.

Tuesday 23rd January – PTA meeting – 6.00pm in school. Please join us if you can.

Have you signed up to the School Lottery yet? We only have 22 members and need lots more!! You can join for £1 per week and the profits come back to the school either in direct fundraising or as cash prizes for our school families and there are some big prizes to be won! A number of draws have taken place with members winning money. Join here:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/our-lady-and-st-edwards-catholic-primary-school>

Easy Fundraising - Have you downloaded the Easyfundraising app yet?

easyfundraising is the simplest way to raise money for Our Lady & St Edward's Primary School PTA – We have raised over £800 so far!

Shop with any of over 3,300 well-known retailers via the easyfundraising

website - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/UJX6FK/MHPPE8/>

When you click on this link just search for the cause – Our Lady & St Edward's Primary School PTA. It's simple and quick to do!

Break the Rules Day

On February 9th we will be having a Break the Rules day where the children can come to school in casual clothes/fancy dress, they can spray their hair, wear make-up.

Arbor Payments

Please keep a check on Arbor as your balance for school lunches should always be in credit.



Teacher Training courses starting September 2024

Exciting Opportunity – Train to Teach in Local Schools

Recruiting now for September 2024 start

The Catholic Teaching Alliance is based at Our Lady's Catholic High School. Minimum requirements for our teacher training courses are GCSEs in Maths and English (and Science for primary), plus an honours degree, class 2:2 or above.

- Teacher training (PGCE with QTS) is available in all phases:
- Early Primary (3-7 years)
- General Primary (5-11 years)
- Secondary (11-16 years)
- Secondary with post 16 (14-19 years)

Train locally in Preston, Blackburn, Blackpool or the Fylde coast.

Please contact us for further information, or to book onto one of our online information sessions, call 01772 326931 or email CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/pgce-courses.html>

Winter Illnesses

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) are reminding parents of back to school advice amid rising levels of winter illness. You may find it useful to forward the following link to parents: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-reminds-parents-of-back-to-school-advice?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=d2897b05-876e-4b17-96d6-0a01fa2e1827&utm_content=daily

St Edward's School Club

St Edward's School Club

A reminder that if you are booking a session within 48 hours please also email the school office on bursar@ourlady-st-edwards.lancs.sch.uk to advise so that your child can be manually added to the list. This also applies if you are booking over a weekend for a session on the following Monday or Tuesday.

A reminder too that bookings are not confirmed until payment has been received or voucher payment has been ordered.

Shoes

A member of staff has donated a pair of new school type shoes (Pavers) which would be suitable for a girl. They are black, size 4 with laces. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

School Crossing Patrol Officer

Dave, our School Crossing Patrol Officer, has asked us to pass on his thanks to the pupils and parents who gave him Christmas wishes, cards and gifts – he appreciated them all.

EL CLUB ESPAÑOL

Our Fun Spanish Clubs will restart on Thursday 11th January at Our Lady & St Edward's! Our fun clubs allow your child to get started on a new and exciting language, with the help of fun games, songs, stories and drama! Our club takes place after school to offer a fun and educational alternative to after school club, and is open to all levels of ability.

Fun Spanish After School Club is open to Year 1 up to Year 6 & is a 1-hour club taking place on Thursdays from 11th Jan for 10 weeks in the Spring Term, fees are £7.10 per session, payable termly.

Membership fee for new members is now £14.95 and new children receive a songbook & CD with folder and sticker chart and it includes free access to our internet gamezone and access to all the LCF French & Spanish music via streaming on any device. 10% Discounts for siblings. Monthly direct debits/standing orders/card payment options are available.

Beginners are most welcome and all children can have a no-obligation taster for this club by signing up at www.boltonlanguages.co.uk/enrol and paying AFTER the trial session, by skipping the payment stage of the signup until the trial is complete. If your child doesn't wish to continue, then you don't need to pay anything.