

Our Lady Immaculate School News



10th January 2020

The month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Issue 16

THE SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS ARE 7:30 AM. UNTIL 4:00 PM. MONDAY—FRIDAY
Tel: 01245 353755

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting new term. Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! It is great to see everyone back looking refreshed and happy and I am glad to be able to report that I have found children ready and keen to learn (and of course tell me about the great time they had over the Christmas break). It has been a real pleasure to see and be part of.

Father Stephen joined us for our first whole school assembly. He spoke with the children about the Feast of the Epiphany and the special visitors that visited Jesus with gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. The children thought about why the Wise men brought such special gifts and what each gift represented.



Father Stephen then asked the children what they thought the Wise men would bring to Jesus in this day and age. He explained to the children that their gift to Jesus was themselves and the way in which they lead their lives.

Throughout the assembly the children's responses were so thoughtful, with many of them saying that they thought the Wise men would bring peace, joy and love. It was so refreshing listening to the children share their ideas and understanding of the importance of looking after God's world. The gifts that they thought would be shared now are some of the hardest things to achieve on your own; however, working together, greater things can be achieved. We strive each day to give the children the skills to work together as a team to achieve and this is our school New Year's resolution.

"Together we can achieve great things and grow in love for God."

New Year's Prayer



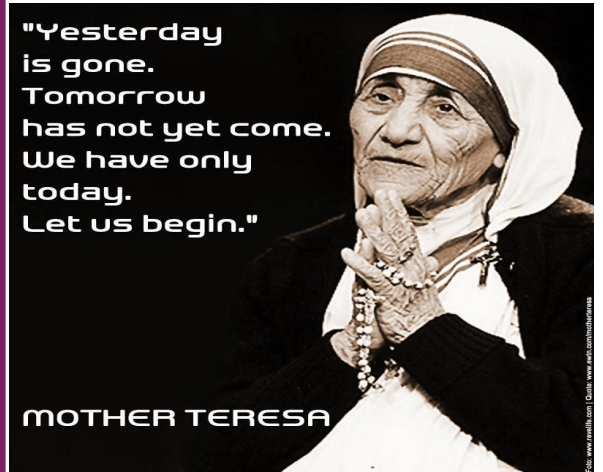
Thank you Lord for giving me,
The brand New Year ahead.
Help me live the way I should,
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom,
That I might help a friend.
Give me strength and courage,
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy,
And happiness it brings.

Anon

Thought for today!

"Yesterday
is gone.
Tomorrow
has not yet come.
We have only
today.
Let us begin."

MOTHER TERESA



Wishing you a happy and peaceful weekend.

*Lesley Roche
Headteacher*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please note: new information will be presented in red

JANUARY 2020	
Tuesday, 14th	Read Write Inc. Day
Wednesday, 15th	Harry Potter World—Year 4
Monday, 27th	Year 1 Class Assembly 2.45 p.m. – Parents welcome
FEBRUARY 2020	
Monday, 3rd	St Blaze-Blessing of the Throat Year 4 Class Assembly 2.45 p.m. – Parents welcome Smash Festival 1 p.m.—3 p.m.
Tuesday, 4th	Read Write In. Day
Friday, 7th	Year 5 Retreat - Walsingham House Brentwood (Details to follow)
Saturday, 8th	Friends Association Family Disco 5.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
Monday, 10th	Year 2 Class Assembly 2.45 p.m. – Parents welcome
Tuesday, 11th	Superstars Year 4 - 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a. m.
Wednesday, 12th	Wonderdome - All Day (all year groups)
Monday, 17th to Friday, 21st	Half Term Holiday
MARCH 2020	
Monday, 2nd	Year 5 Class Assembly 2.45 p.m. - Parents Welcome
Thursday, 5th	World Book Day
Monday, 16th	Year 3 Class Assembly 2.45 p.m. - Parents Welcome
Friday, 20th	Mother's Day Gifts
Monday, 23rd	Reception Class Assembly - Mothering Sunday— Parents Welcome High 5s Tournament 4 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. Great Baddow
Tuesday, 24th	Teaching and Learning Conference - 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Thursday, 26th	Teaching and Learning Conference - 6.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
Saturday, 28th	Friends Association - Rising Stars
Monday, 30th	NSPCC Assembly & Workshop 9 a.m. to 12.25 p.m. Year 5 & Year 6
Tuesday, 31st	Teaching and Learning Conference - 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.



Kindly take note - Parents are NOT PERMITTED TO PARK BEHIND THE CHURCH, either in the Morning or at the End of the school day, to drop off or collect children.
Please consider how to drop off your child safely –
New London Road is so very busy!

PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS

parents@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk Please use the parent email address to leave messages about a child's absence or pick up arrangements. Child absences must be reported by 9 a.m. on the first day, and changes to pick up can be emailed until **2 p.m. on the day**. – You must ring the school thereafter.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ABSENCE NOTES AND PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS VIA THE ADMIN@ EMAIL ADDRESS NOR VIA SCHOOLCOMMS – THANK YOU.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS



Please be aware that the School Office is open between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you need to speak to a teaching member of staff, please leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as possible. Mrs Mayo and Miss Bull will be available to take any calls for the Ark between 3:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

PATHWAY FOR PARENTS

From time to time, parents and carers may have concerns about their son or daughter's education and/or wellbeing at school. Quite often this is due to a misunderstanding about school policy or practice. Sometimes the pupil may be behaving unusually at home or at school and/or expressing their own concerns. Whatever the situation, we would encourage you, and/or your child, to **talk to us about it at the earliest opportunity** so that we can help sort out the problem.

If it is your child's academic progress that you wish to speak to us about, or if it is an issue around your child's wellbeing (for example, bullying or other anxiety), please ask to see their teacher in the first instance or make an appointment, through the School Office, telephone number 01245 353755, or via our Parent email address: Parents@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk or in person at Reception.

Our Lady Immaculate School emphasises the partnership between parents, church and school and the majority of concerns can be dealt with through informal contacts, usually with the class teacher and, sometimes, the Headteacher. Most concerns and complaints can be sorted out quickly by speaking with your child's class teacher.

If, having spoken to the class teacher, you still have concerns, you should see the Headteacher who will look into the problem and discuss their findings with you so that we can find a way forward together which serves the best interest of both the school and your child.

MERIT BADGES



Week ending 10th January 2020

Foundation	Russell Rola	Harry Herins
Year 1	Edward Osei-Owusu	Darcy Steel
Year 2	Aaron Boadi	Isla Fordham
Year 3	Grainne Evans	Lennon Green
Year 4	George Lysandrou	Orla McLaughlin
Year 5	Nidia Mathew	Rodney Sola
Year 6	Jacob Downton	Niamh McSweeney

HOUSE POINTS

WEEK ENDING 10th January 2020

(figures in brackets refer to aggregated totals from the start of term)

BECKET	CAMPION	FISHER	MORE
14 (191)	11 (190)	12 (179)	13 (148)

LEARNER OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING 10th January 2020

Foundation	Ciara Harrison	Sienna Char
Year 1	Isaac Boakye	Jackson Brunning
Year 2	Ban Madders	Beatrice Wren
Year 3	Daniel Wright	Gracie Brown
Year 4	Shane Gogo	Juliet Jardim
Year 5	George Henderson	Millie Brown
Year 6	Isabella Rivero	Franky Coles



MENU WEEK COMMENCING - 13th January – Week 3

Please check the menu as there is a change in food choices.

Please refer to the menus on our website so the children are aware and know what to choose when asked by their teachers. Please use the online payment system to pay for all dinners (Years 3 to 6). Please note there is a change of new and exciting dishes on the menu.

Please see the Notice board for the special menu on Thursday 16th January in place of Cottage Pie.

Please encourage your child in KS1 to try a free school meal on Thursday 16th January. Our school meals service is excellent and provides delicious, balanced and nourishing food on a daily basis. If possible, please support the school by choosing a Universal Free School meal for infants on this day. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

The revised menu for next Thursday 16th January 2020 will be:

Chicken Nuggets (made from breast of chicken), Golden Footballs (Pomme Noisettes)

Salad Bar, Baked Beans, Sweetcorn

Or alternatively a Jacket Potato.

Dessert will be an 'Ice Cream Factory' with sprinkles, choc drops, wafers, marshmallow, raisins and sauces or fresh fruit salad. There will be an alternative non-milk ice cream for those pupils with allergies.

Is your child eligible for this award—Free School Meals?

In order for the school to receive the Pupil Premium funding, a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit) Universal Credit.

Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Further information can be found on <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>



You will have noticed that it's new menu time again! We have tried to keep it to children's favourites, without comprising National school food standards. This ensures children get a variety of healthy, homemade

(where possible) main meals and desserts.

Indeed, children always have a selection of hot vegetables, salad and fresh fruit to accompany their meal. Pupil feedback is very important to us which is why we have made the decision to keep Jacket Potatoes on as a daily alternative. In so doing, the children always have accessibility to a hot meal if the main choice is something they are not very keen on. I am sure, as parents, you can appreciate how hard it is to please approximately 170 children's taste buds every day!

Please try to look at the menus and discuss them with your children. Why not get your child to ask for a small sample if they are concerned they won't like something; Mrs Flynn is always happy to oblige and encourage children to try new things!

SCHOOL UNIFORM – ORDERING -

www.schooltrends.co.uk (parent ordering)

Ties, coloured reading bags for EYFS and summer caps are available from the school office only.

Kindly note that the zipped hoodie is for junior outdoor games lessons only and is not to be worn in place of the sweatshirt or coat.

As you are probably aware, School Trends was taken over by another company earlier this year and they have changed the delivery service to be a "Direct to Parent" service. This means there is no minimum order and everything will be delivered direct to your door for a small delivery charge of only £2.99.

As a result of this, you can place an order any time without having to stick to monthly deadlines and your orders will be processed and dispatched on an individual basis.

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is fundamental to a successful and fulfilling school experience. Regular attendance at school promotes pupils' well-being, maximises progress in learning and helps pupils reach their potential. For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital that our pupils are at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Holiday requests during term time:

Holiday requests will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.



**REMEMBER, EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS
TOWARDS YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS**



THE ARK & AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

New change to booking of clubs - when selecting a club, the selection will automatically book your child for the entire period the club runs and payment will need to be made when the booking is done. No dates will appear in the booking log. The total amount will be display rather than per session.

Club bookings can no longer be made as and when, they have to book for the entire session and the payment made will be for all the sessions. No refunds will be issued if a session is missed.

The next list of clubs for SPRING 1 has been added and ready to book.

It is imperative that you always **BOOK** your child onto the relevant club sessions for the entire period/term the club runs **prior** to making payment, as this is the only way to ensure your child has a place. N.B. Children can stay in The Ark at the cost of £4.25 per hour – at very short notice but please inform the office accordingly.

We do understand that there may be situations where your child is unable to attend a club, but please note we cannot refund any monies for missed sessions.

THE ARK - As the weather is getting colder, it is important that those children attending after school clubs keep warm. As such, all children should now be wearing their tracksuits. If you would prefer that your child get changed back into their school uniform before being collected, please remind them to take their things to the hall, at the end of the school day, where they can be

The Book People have a dedicated team of book experts who use their vast experience to select our hand-picked favourites and they also have an extensive library of over 100,000 items – where there is something for everyone, from the latest titles to timeless classics.



Big Book Boost is The Book People's brand new fundraising scheme. Every time you place an order with them over £10, they will donate £1 to our School for us to spend on books! With your help, they aim to donate 1 MILLION BOOKS to UK Schools by 2022.

<https://emailcontent.thebookpeople.co.uk/?>



News from The ARK

Welcome back everyone. It's so lovely to be back together again, in this brand new year. We have got off to a great start, by enjoying a pleasant week, sharing all our Christmas and New Year adventures. The Ark sessions are as follows:

3.15 - 4.15

4.15 - 5.15

5.15 - 6.15

From the Ark Team.



ORANGE PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS PLEASE!

We are continuing to collect plastic bottle tops for our whole school mural of Mary.

Specifically, we now need orange, silver and clear plastic bottle tops to complete the work and would be extremely grateful for any help that you can give us in collecting these.



REMINDER

Please could you make sure that your child comes equipped and ready for their School Day with their PE/Club kit, Forest School Clothing and their packed lunch (those that have a packed lunch).

This would alleviate the need for the Office Staff to deliver late items to the classrooms.