

With God all things are possible'



Our Lady Immaculate School News



Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Primary School
A Multi-Academy

10th March 2023

The Holy Month of St Joseph

Issue 24

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now two week's into Lent, and although I have seen some beautiful snowdrops, I've yet to see very much sunshine, as I've stood freezing on the school gate! Let's hope that with the lighter evenings coming our way soon, we also begin to feel the warmth of the sun shining upon us.

In this week's Gospel assembly, the children heard how Jesus led his disciples to a high mountain top. The children learned that in the Bible mountains are places where people can be closer to God. Through Jesus' transfiguration, they reflected on how God is telling Peter, James and John how special Jesus is. They took away the knowledge that when we listen to and follow Jesus, our lives are also transformed. We grow in faith and love and are filled with words of encouragement.

In preparation for this week's non-uniform day, the Mini-Vinnies delivered an excellent assembly on the plight of the women and babies in Sudan. It is wonderful to see the Mini-Vinnies joining together with the SVP's parish group to raise money for this very important project.

Through Catholic Social Teaching we are always encouraging our children to think of others less fortunate than themselves. This project has shown our children to put their faith into action, and I am extremely proud of their generosity and compassion. Well done Mini-Vinnies.

Have a wonderful weekend.

God Bless!
Lesley Roche
Headteacher

Virtues to Live By

We are growing in the Virtue of **Prayerfulness.**

During her assembly, Mrs Catchpole shared this model for prayer with the children. What a wonderful way to grow closer to God.



Thought for the weekend!

Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

Fast from hurting words
and say kind words,
Fast from sadness
and be filled with gratitude,
Fast from pessimism
and be filled with hope,
Fast from worries
and trust in God,
Fast from pressures
and be prayerful,
Fast from bitterness
and fill your heart with joy,
Fast from selfishness
and be compassionate to others,
Fast from grudges
and be reconciled,
Fast from words and be silent, so you can listen.

MichelleDeRusha.com

--Pope Francis

Staffing!

After 25 years of service to the school, Mr Owens has decided that the time has come for him to retire from his post as Deputy Headteacher. Fortunately, Mr Owens has agreed to stay until the end of the summer term, so we won't be saying goodbye just yet!

The Governors have already appointed a new Deputy Headteacher, who will be starting in September. More information will follow, once all the necessary safeguarding checks have been carried out.

I am sure that everyone will wish to join me in thanking Mr Owens for his unwavering service and commitment to the Our Lady Immaculate community.



Important information from Essex County Council- Term time holidays

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays.

We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court. If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

School Vacancies

Midday Assistant

Our Lady Immaculate School is looking to recruit a permanent Midday Assistant. The position is for a total of 1.5 hours a day on Mondays and Fridays from 12:00pm to 1:30pm, term time only. The hourly rate is: £10.60 plus holiday pay. For further information and an application form please contact Lindsey Murgatroyd – lindsey.murgatroyd@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk or 01245 353755. No previous experience required as training will be given.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All appointments require an enhanced DBS disclosure, medical check and satisfactory references. In compliance with Safer Recruitment guidelines, CVs cannot be accepted.

We look forward to hearing from you!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please note: new information will be presented in red

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| MARCH 2023 | |
| Tuesday, 14th | Infant Music Festival (Year 2) - more details soon |
| Wednesday, 15th | Year 3 trip to Colchester Castle Year 1 and Year 2 Parish Mass @ 9.30am |
| Friday, 17th | Friends Mother's Day Gift Sale |
| Monday, 20th | Foundation class assembly celebrating Mother's Day |
| Wednesday, 22nd | Year 4 Parish Mass @ 9.30am |
| Friday, 31st | LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM - please note there is no after school Ark club Friends Easter Raffle and Easter Fun Day |
| APRIL 2023 | |
| Monday, 17th | First Day of Summer Term |
| Saturday, 22nd | Friends Bingo |
| Monday, 24th | Year 4 trip to Harry Potter World |
| MAY 2023 | |
| Saturday, 13th | Friends Race Night |
| Monday, 29th - Friday, 2nd | Half-term |
| JUNE 2023 | |
| Monday, 12th - Wednesday, 14th | Year 6 trip to Norfolk |
| Friday, 16th | Friends Father's Day Gift Sale |
| Wednesday, 28th | Year 5 - Farm to Fork at Writtle College - more details soon |
| JULY 2023 | |
| Wednesday, 5th | Infants trip to Barleylands - more details soon |
| Saturday, 8th | Friends Summer Festival |
| Friday, 21st | LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM - please note there is no after school Ark club |

On Monday, 6 of our Year 2s attended a Tag Rugby competition held at Writtle. Despite the very cold weather, all children showed great enthusiasm and determination throughout. They worked brilliantly as a team, displaying respect and kindness. They managed to come 4th out of 14 teams which is superb. Well done Year 2!



Friends Association News

Dear All,

Mothers day gift sale

Friday 17th March in school. Children will be taken to the hall to buy presents, which will be £2.50 each.

Easter Hamper raffle and fun day

Please, if you're able to contribute to the Easter hampers, the trolley will be out from Monday. We would love any of the following:

Mini Eggs (for guess the no. of eggs)

Easter Biscuits

Red/White/Rose Wine

Prosecco

Beer

Luxury Chocolate Bunny

Children's Easter Eggs

7 x Cuddly Bunny Rabbit (new/unused)–for guess the bunny name.

Easter Craft Pack/Activity Book

Easter themed cookie set

Easter themed Colouring Set



As per last year we would like to give each child a small Easter egg so we do require approx 230 Easter eggs.

As always we really appreciate your continued support which make these events successful and raise much needed funds for our school.

Meeting

The next meeting is 19:30 on 15th March, in the school. It will also be via zoom, the link to follow.

The Friends Association

Friends association email address:

friends@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk

MERIT BADGES

WEEK ENDING 10th March 2023

(Merit Badges are awarded for demonstrating the Value of the Week)

| | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Foundation | Richmond | Daisy |
| Year 1 | Raine-Esme | Aidan |
| Year 2 | Filip | Ysabella |
| Year 3 | Emily | Julian |
| Year 4 | Florence C | David A-H |
| Year 5 | Isabella | Henry |
| Year 6 | Nathan | Zac |

HOUSE POINTS

WEEK ENDING 3rd February 2023

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

| BECKET | CAMPION | FISHER | MORE |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2nd (243) | 1st (244) | 4th (219) | 3rd (259) |

LEARNER OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING 10th March 2023

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Foundation | Kaitlyn | Claudia |
| Year 1 | Hugo | Ella |
| Year 2 | Nico | Charlotte |
| Year 3 | Charlie | Anna |
| Year 4 | Dorian | Rhoda |
| Year 5 | Caius | Luke |
| Year 6 | Constance | Gracie |

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PARKING

Church Car Park and Staff Car Park (in front of school)



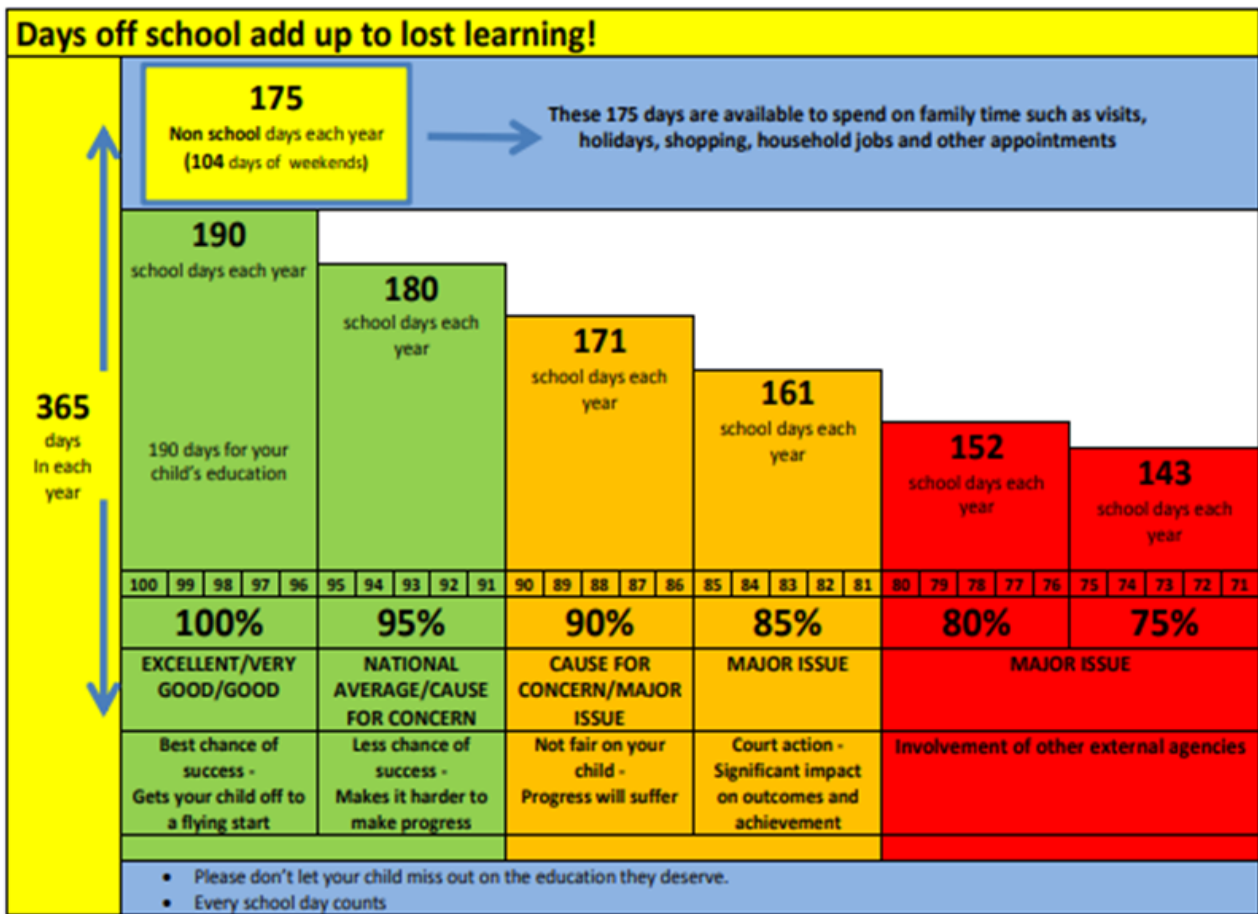
Please remember that there is NO PARKING behind the church when dropping off or collecting your child. The car park is for Church use only.

Please also note that you are **NOT** to park in the staff car park (in front of the school) for drop off for the Ark. This applies to both before and after school.

Attendance

We know that these things are unavoidable but please do ensure that your child is in school whenever they can be. Lost learning now has a big impact on children's future learning.

Please be aware that the school is **strictly unable to sanction any holidays** taken during term time.



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.

MENU WEEK COMMENCING - 13th March 2023 – Week 1

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).

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>

Safeguarding

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform the school's Designated Safeguarding officer: **Mrs Roche**. We also have a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: **Mr Owens**.

In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with one of the Designated Safeguarding Officers to seek further advice.

“Safeguarding is thinking the unthinkable and then figuring out how to reduce the probability of the unthinkable happening.”

Graham Fawcet



DROP OFF AND PICK UP PARKING

Church Car Park and Staff Car Park (in front of school)

Please remember that there is NO PARKING behind the church when dropping off or collecting your child. The car park is for Church use only.

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Clubs

The clubs for February will be:

Monday Multi sports - years 1 & 2 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(27th February - 27th March)

Team sports - years 3 & 4 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(27th February - 27th March)

High 5's - years 5 & 6 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(27th February - 27th March)

Tuesday Rugbytots - years 1 & 2 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(21st February - 28th March)

Football - years 5 & 6 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(21st February - 28th March)

Wednesday Art - years 1, 2 & 3 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(22nd February - 29th March)

Thursday Bootcamp - years 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(23rd February - 30th March)

Chess - years 4, 5 & 6 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(23rd February - 30th March - **only children who attended last half-term**)

Art - years 4, 5 & 6 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(23rd February - 30th March)

Friday Guitar - years 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

(23rd February - 24th March - **no guitar club on the 31st March due to the school closing at 3.15pm**)



The clubs will be released towards the beginning of next week. There is no Drama club until the start of the Summer term.

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.

REMINDER

Please could you make sure that your child comes equipped and ready for their School Day with their PE/Club kit, Books, Water Bottle, Forest School Clothing, Wellie Boots 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, and disturbing children's learning.

