



The Rosary Trust

*'With God all things are possible'*

# Our Lady Immaculate School News



Our Lady Immaculate  
Catholic Primary School  
A Multi-Academy

2nd December, 2022

The month of the Immaculate Conception

Issue 13

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we celebrate the arrival of December here at Our Lady Immaculate. The start of this festive month marks the beginning of Christmastide, and we have already come together as a school family to light the first Advent candle. This beautiful tradition reminds us of the challenges we face and the hope that God will guide us towards a better world.

During our Advent gathering, the children listened to the words of Saint Mark, reflecting on Jesus' advice to his disciples to 'Always be ready!'. These wise words encourage us to remain prepared for whatever challenges may come our way, and to face them with courage and determination.

Next week, we eagerly await the Year 3 Advent assembly, where our children will showcase their talents and fill us with joy. I know that our parents will be thrilled to join us for this special occasion, and I look forward to witnessing the pride and happiness on their faces as they watch their children shine.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to all of you to join us at the Friends Association's Christmas Bazaar this Sunday. With various stalls and activities, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

As we embark on this joyous month, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas and the hope it brings. I wish you all a blessed and joyful December, filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments with your families.

**God Bless!**

*Lesley Roche*  
*Headteacher*

## The Christmas Bazaar

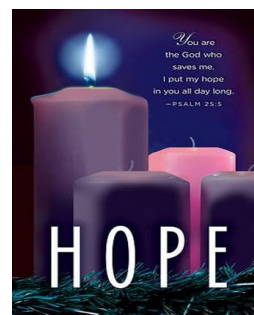


Once again, our School Christmas Bazaar has been organised by our Friends Association and I know that Mrs Charles-Foster, the Chair, has been supported by many parents to bring about this fantastic event. Thank you!

There will be plenty to see, do, eat and drink, and of course to buy. I've also been told Father Christmas will be making a special appearance!

All proceeds will directly benefit the children at school.

## Thought for the weekend



## Virtues to Live by

We continue to grow in the Virtue of  
**Patience**

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times." (Romans 12:12)*

## Prayer Tree

In preparation for our school Feast Day, Mrs Baker has been working with groups of children from every class to give our prayer tree a face lift. Thank you Mrs Baker—it's wonderful!



## Travelling Crib

The Chaplaincy Team have been busy introducing the new Travelling Crib initiative. This tradition allows families to embrace the true meaning of Christmas and create precious memories together.





## Advent Preparations



Beatrice in Year 6 began her Advent preparations early this year. She collected one item of food everyday for the whole of November, packed it into a box, ready to be delivered to Chelmsford Food Bank. This shows a real act of generosity and faith and will definitely benefit a family over the Christmas period.

## Advent Booklets

Every child in Years 1 to 6 will be coming home today with an Advent booklet — 'My Day by Day'.

These booklets have been purchased by the Parish, and will provide a wonderful resource for your child as they journey through Advent to Christmas. Thank you Father Martin for your kindness and generosity.



## **PROCEDURE FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

Whilst we appreciate how hard you try to arrange appointments for your child outside of schooltime. If your child has to have a medical appointment during the school day, in order to authorise this absence, the **school office** requires a copy of your original appointment letter or confirmation. Thank you in advance for your continued support and co-operation.

## **Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2024**

Primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 6 November 2023**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2024**.

**From 6 November 2023**, applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above. The website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2024-25 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

You will also need to complete a Supplementary Application Form which can be obtained from the office or the school's website [www.ourladyimmaculateprimary.org](http://www.ourladyimmaculateprimary.org).

# DATES TO REMEMBER

**Please note: new information will be presented in red**

| DECEMBER 2023   |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sunday, 3rd     | Friends Bazaar   |
| Monday, 4th     | Year 3 Advent Assembly @ 2.30pm  |
| Friday, 8th     | Whole school Mass @ 9am  |
| Tuesday, 12th   | Infant Nativity @ 9.30am - Reception parents to attend   |
| Wednesday, 13th | Infant Nativity @ 2pm - Year 1 parents to attend   |
| Thursday, 14th  | Infant Nativity @ 9.30am - Year 2 parents to attend<br>Junior Carol Service - 2pm in the church      |
| Tuesday, 19th   | Children's Christmas dinner  |
| Wednesday, 20th | LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM - SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.30PM<br>Please note that there is no after school club |
| JANUARY 2024    |  |
| Thursday, 4th   | First day back at school   |

## Friends Association News

### Christmas Bazaar

We look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Bazaar on Sunday from 10am to 1pm.

Thank you for all the volunteers who have offered to help. Please see the timetable that was sent out via email from the friends association.

Please see the attached link for the amazing raffle prizes.

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/zemau/eezv/?1700821018331>

Don't forget to bring any grand draw ticket returns.

We would love any cake donations, the school will be open on Sunday from 8am

Many Thanks,

The Friends Association



## MERIT BADGES

WEEK ENDING 1st December 2023

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

|            |         |         |
|------------|---------|---------|
| Foundation | Evie    | Helena  |
| Year 1     | Kaitlyn | Peter   |
| Year 2     | Lilian  | Rosie   |
| Year 3     | Leo     | Esmé    |
| Year 4     | Keva    | Hartley |
| Year 5     | Cillian | Maria   |
| Year 6     | Aaron   | Conor   |

## HOUSE POINTS

WEEK ENDING 1st December 2023

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

|               |                |               |             |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>BECKET</b> | <b>CAMPION</b> | <b>FISHER</b> | <b>MORE</b> |
| 2nd (167)     | 2nd (138)      | 3rd (177)     | 1st (170)   |

## LEARNER OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING 1st December 2023

|            |         |          |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Foundation | Kitt    | Kezia    |
| Year 1     | T-J     | Daisy    |
| Year 2     | Aidan   | Violet   |
| Year 3     | Oscar   | Jocelyn  |
| Year 4     | Elijah  | Florence |
| Year 5     | Jackson | Hattie   |
| Year 6     | Roisin  | Sophie   |

## PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS

[parents@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk](mailto: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 PUPIL DETAILS

If you have moved or if any of your details have changed, please can you inform the Office so we can update your child's records.



**Christmas Lunch Tuesday, 19th December 2023 - Price £3.35**

*Roast Turkey*

*Pigs in Blankets*

*Stuffing*

*Gravy*

*Crispy Roast Potatoes*

*Carrots*

*Brussels Sprouts*

*Peas*

~

*Ice Cream*

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*Milk / Aqua juice cartons (apple or orange) / Water*

**Vegetarian option**

*Quorn Fillet*

*Stuffing*

*Gravy*

*Crispy Roast Potatoes*

*Carrots*

*Brussels Sprouts*

*Peas*

~

*Ice Cream*

~

*Milk / Aqua juice cartons (apple or orange) / Water*

***\*If you would like the vegetarian option, please let the school office know no later than Friday, 8th December.***

Payment will be taken from your child's School Gateway dinners account.

All Children in KS1 have Universal Free School Meals and do not have to pay, however, for those in the Juniors, the cost will be £3.35.

## MENU WEEK COMMENCING - 4th December – 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: **Mrs Gibbs**.

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.

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.

## 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).

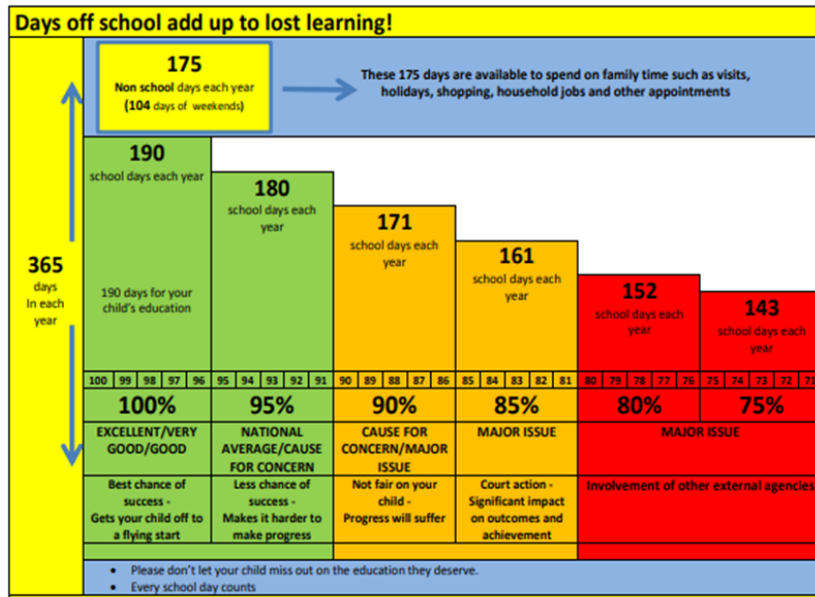
This would alleviate the need for the Office Staff to deliver late items to the classrooms, and disturbing children's learning.



## 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.



## Attendance

Attendance Data:

**94% and below**

**94% - 97%**

**97% and above**

|                           | Last week %<br>20.11.23 - 24.11.23 | This week %<br>20.11.23 - 24.11.23 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Foundation                | 93%                                | 94%                                |
| Year 1                    | 98.3%                              | 92.3%                              |
| Year 2                    | 98%                                | 100%                               |
| Year 3                    | 94.7%                              | 97.2%                              |
| Year 4                    | 92.5%                              | 99.1%                              |
| Year 5                    | 95.6%                              | 98.8%                              |
| Year 6                    | 98.1%                              | 97.4%                              |
| <b>Whole School Total</b> | <b>95.7%</b>                       | <b>97%</b>                         |

Congratulations to **Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6** for being above 97%.

The aim of the attendance chart is for all classes to achieve green

If your child's attendance falls below 95%, you will receive a legal attendance letter as per the Attendance Policy.

Our Lady Immaculate fully complies with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please see our privacy notices which are located on our school website ([www.ourladyimmaculateprimary.org](http://www.ourladyimmaculateprimary.org)) under 'Key Information/GDPR and Privacy