



'With God all things are possible'

Our Lady Immaculate School News



Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Primary School
A Multi-Academy

19th January 2024

The Month of the Holy name of Jesus

Issue 17

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.

I had the pleasure of visiting every class this week and I must say, I was thoroughly impressed with how quickly the children have settled into the new term. The air was filled with purposefulness as the children engaged in their lessons and eagerly participated in discussions. Their enthusiasm for learning is truly inspiring!

During Monday's assembly, we focused on the theme of new beginnings. The children listened attentively to the story of the two disciples of John the Baptist who made a fresh start. We explored the meaning behind John's proclamation, "Look, there is the Lamb of God," and the children were curious about why Jesus chose to call Simon by the name Peter.

As always, the children's responses to God's word were thoughtful and insightful. Through their questioning and exploration, they discovered that God invites each and every one of us to make a new start with Him, each and every day.

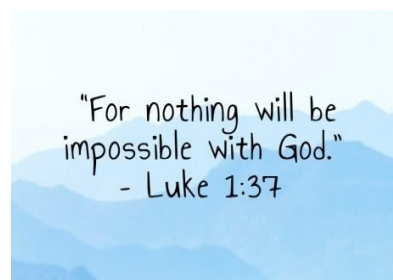
I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to everyone who took the time to complete our Catholic Life and Mission Survey. Your feedback is invaluable to us and plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our school.

The Catholic Life and Mission of our school underpins everything we do here at Our Lady Immaculate. It serves as the guiding light that illuminates our path towards providing a nurturing and faith-filled environment for our pupils and I am delighted to share with you that the responses we have received so far have been overwhelmingly positive. It warms my heart to see that our efforts in creating a strong Catholic ethos have not gone unnoticed.

Your kind words and constructive suggestions have been carefully noted, and I assure you that we will be taking them into serious consideration as we work towards further enhancing our Catholic Life and Mission. It is through your support and collaboration that we can continue to grow as a faith community and provide the best possible education for our children.

Virtues to Live By

We have continued to grow in the Virtue of **FAITH**.



The Friends Association



On Monday, the Friends Association met up to discuss this term's fund raising activities.

Their boundless energy never ceases to amaze me and I for one, feel blessed to have such an amazing group of parents working so hard to raise much needed funds for our wonderful school.

THANK YOU!

Thought for the Weekend



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

- Mother Teresa

AZ QUOTES

God Bless!

Lesley Roche
Headteacher

A welcome visitor!



Last week, I had the pleasure of hosting Mrs Katherine Jeffrey, the Principal of New Hall School. It was a fantastic opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss the future development of our schools. Our conversations covered a wide range of topics, including IT, phonic programmes, library and reading initiatives, and specialist subject support. The aim of these discussions was to enhance the learning experiences of our children, and I am thrilled to say that we have some exciting plans in the pipeline.

One of the outcomes of Mrs Jeffrey's visit is to work together to create a Chaplaincy Garden in our school. Mrs Jeffrey has already spoken to the Head Gardener at New Hall, who is enthusiastic about designing this peaceful and reflective space for our children. In addition to the garden, he has also agreed to establish a Gardening Club, offering training opportunities for both our staff and pupils. This project is set to begin in the summer/autumn of 2024, and I cannot wait to see the positive impact it will have on our school community.

The Chaplaincy Garden will provide our children with a serene environment where they can reflect and find solace. It will serve as a haven amidst the hustle and bustle of school life. The Gardening Club, on the other hand, will provide our children with the chance to develop valuable skills and foster a love for nature. I am truly excited about the future projects that will come to fruition as a result of Mrs Jeffrey's visit, and I am looking forward to collaborating with New Hall on these initiatives.

The Celebration of Mass—Reception and Year 6

I would like to extend my congratulations to our Reception class, who celebrated their first school Mass with their Year 6 buddies on Wednesday. It was a joyous occasion, filled with a sense of reverence and togetherness. The children's behaviour was impeccable throughout the service, reflecting the values we strive to instill in our pupils. I am particularly proud of their ability to show respect and engage in such a meaningful way. I am certain that this experience will serve as a strong foundation for their spiritual growth in the years to come.

Thank you Fr Paschal for making the occasion such a special one.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Please note: new information will be presented in red

JANUARY 2024	
Wednesday, 24th	Year 1 Parish Mass @ 9.30am
Wednesday, 31st	Year 2 Parish Mass @ 9.30am
FEBRUARY 2024	
Saturday, 3rd	Friends School Disco
Wednesday, 7th	Year 3 Parish Mass @ 9.30am
Wednesday, 14th	Ash Wednesday - 9am Whole School Mass
Monday, 19th - Friday, 23rd	Half-Term
Monday, 26th	INSET DAY
Wednesday, 28th	Year 4 Parish Mass @ 9.30am
MARCH 2024	
Monday, 4th	Teacher Learning Conferences - 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday, 6th	Year 5 Parish Mass @ 9.30am Teacher Learning Conferences - 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday, 7th	Year 1 trip to Pizza Express - details coming soon
Wednesday, 13th	Reception and Year 6 Parish Mass @ 9.30am
Wednesday, 20th	Year 1 Parish Mass @ 9.30am
Wednesday, 27th	Year 2 Parish Mass @ 9.30am
Thursday, 28th	LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM - SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15PM - PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO AFTER SCHOOL ARK CLUB
APRIL 2024	
Monday, 15th	Back to school
Saturday, 20th	Friends Talent show school
MAY 2024	
Saturday, 11th	Friends Bingo

MERIT BADGES

WEEK ENDING 19th January 2024

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

Foundation	Isla	Miriam
Year 1	Adam	Annie
Year 2	Emily	Kingsley
Year 3	Richmond	Kaleb
Year 4	Eloise	Jeffray
Year 5	Liam	Hattie
Year 6	Roisin	Conor

HOUSE POINTS

WEEK ENDING 19th January 2024

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

BECKET	CAMPION	FISHER	MORE
4th (209)	2nd (195)	1st (222)	3rd (223)

LEARNER OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING 19th January 2024

Foundation	Finley	Emily
Year 1	Ethan	Milan
Year 2	Praise	Hugo
Year 3	Hugh T-C	Ysabella
Year 4	Paul	Matilda
Year 5	Isaac	Lillie-Mae
Year 6	Teddy	Kwemto

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.

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.

Friends Association News

School Disco

Saturday 3rd Feb

The school disco is a very popular event and tickets will be going on sale very soon. Tickets are £2.50 per person and children need to be accompanied by an adult. The night is a lot of fun and we have a licenced bar for the adults, food and a tuck shop.

Talent Show

We will be holding a talent show on Saturday 20th April. Further information will come out nearer the time regarding how the children can enter.

Many Thanks,

The Friends Association



MENU WEEK COMMENCING - 22nd January – 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>

HEALTHY PLAYTIME SNACKS

Please note that the school has a policy for Healthy Snacks at playtime. As part of our healthy eating programme, children are not permitted to bring sweets or chocolate into school.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE

When asking for time off from school, please remember to complete a Leave of Absence form and accompanying letter. The Leave of Absence form can be found on the school website.

News from the ARK

Bookings for the Ark breakfast and afternoon sessions can be made up to 10pm the night before.

Morning Sessions: 7:30am until 8:30am

Afternoon Sessions: 3:15pm until 4:15pm

4:15pm until 5:15pm

5:15pm until 6:15pm



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.



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.

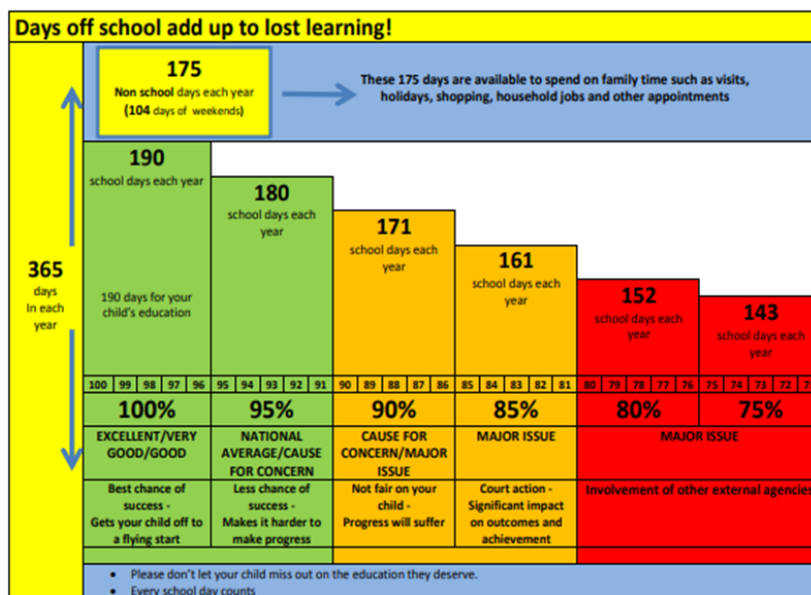
Please also note that you are **NOT** to park in the staff car park (in front of the school) for drop off for the Ark. This applies to both before and after school.



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 % 08.01.24 - 12.01.24	This week % 15.01.24 - 19.01.24
Foundation	95%	94%
Year 1	93.7%	85.7%
Year 2	97.7%	98.7%
Year 3	95.9%	90.3%
Year 4	95.3%	97.8%
Year 5	96.6%	96.3%
Year 6	96.1%	91.3%
Whole School Total	95.8%	93.5%

Congratulations to **Years 2 and 4** 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.