

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



Friday 27th March 2026

Edition 26

“Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God...”

John 11:26-27

Dear Parent and carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting spring term here at school, filled with learning, creativity and achievement. From engaging classroom projects to special events and trips, our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity.

We have celebrated successes both big and small and it has been fantastic to see such positive progress across all year groups. As we approach the Easter break, we take time to reflect on the joy and hope of the Resurrection and we wish all of our families a peaceful and blessed Easter filled with love, renewal and time together.



Stations of the Cross

This week, our pupils took part in a Stations of the Cross activity, helping them to reflect on the final journey of Jesus with prayer and understanding. Moving thoughtfully through each station, the children engaged with the story of Christ’s passion in an age-appropriate and meaningful way, pausing to consider themes of sacrifice, love and forgiveness.

It was a special opportunity for our school community to come together in faith, deepening the children’s spiritual awareness during this important time in the liturgical year.

Thank you to Mrs Burrow for organising the event.



Rock Steady Concert

Children who take part in Rock Steady sessions performed on Thursday and they were absolutely amazing. It was wonderful to see how much the performers enjoyed it as well as the audience singing and tapping away!



Lenten Fundraiser

All classes have now taken part in the ‘Big Lent Walk’. If you haven’t donated, it’s not too late!

[Donate - Donation amount - JustGiving](#)



Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

Nursery	Roux	For her amazing progress in reading and writing
	Crystal	For being respectful during our prayers
Reception	Bella	For her excellent progress in reading and writing
	Rhea	For always showing kindness to her friends and teachers
Year 1	Isabelle	For making amazing progress in her writing
	Gracie	For always working hard in all her lessons
Year 2	Sebastian	For working very hard all week and writing a brilliant diary in English
	Indi	For her helpfulness, kindness and being respectful all week
Year 3	Ella	For having a fantastic week and putting a lot of effort into her final write
	Anvika	For always showing kindness and respect to others
Year 4	Freya	For excellent effort in her writing this week
	Nikita	For showing maturity and reverence when making the Sacrament of Confession
Year 5	Finley	For great work in reading this half term
	Jake	For always being kind, helpful, polite and showing respect to adults and his peers
Year 6	Joanna	For a great effort in our final write
	Panashe	For being a kind and considerate member of the class

Dojo winners

Year 3



First Forgiveness

Congratulations to all of our Year 3 children who took part in their First Forgiveness on Tuesday at Saint Mary's Church with Father Francis. The children approached this special sacrament with maturity, showing a wonderful understanding of the importance of saying sorry and receiving God's forgiveness.

It was a joyful and meaningful occasion for both the children and their families and we are very proud of the way they prepared for and participated in this important step in their faith journey.

Thank you to Father Francis for leading such a thoughtful and prayerful service and to all who supported the children along the way.

Understanding Attendance

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust

The School Day Consists of 2 Sessions
AM - Morning PM - Afternoon

Arriving after the AM register means you will miss your morning mark!

Why Do Sessions Matter?

Attendance is not counted by hours, but by sessions.

Attendance is based on sessions, just one day off school is 2 missed sessions!

For further information, contact Natalie McNulty - Education Welfare Officer of DEL.
E-Mail: N.McNulty@olhc.org.uk Tel: 0782447273

Attendance

We strive for excellent attendance at Saint Mary's.

If your child is unwell and they are need to rest and recover at home we completely understand, but the table below shows the impact of a lower attendance.

Children will miss valuable learning time and typically will not as much progress as their peers who are in school every day.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	1.4 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	3.4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	5.4 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	36 Days	72 Sessions	7.1 Weeks	180 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	9.3 Weeks	240 Lessons

Netball League

Well done to Y5/6 who took part in second round of netball league.

Great team work and resilience was shown all evening—a great result!



Attendance

Nursery	93.33%	Year 3	96.3%
Reception	91.90%	Year 4	97.39%
Year 1	92%	Year 5	98.64%
Year 2	98.15%	Year 6	99.2%

Whole School 96%



Celebration Circle

Each teacher selected a child from their class to join the Celebration Circle this half term.

These children were chosen for their hard work and amazing attitude to learning.

Picture News

We use 'Picture News' in school to share and discuss topics in the news in a child appropriate way. Picture News is currently conducting some research and are keen to hear ideas from parents, children and staff. If you or your child would like to complete the short survey please use the links below. Thank you.

Parent survey – [Survey for parents: Talking with children](#) | [Picture News Forms](#)

Children's survey – [Survey for children: Understanding Young Minds](#) | [Picture News Forms](#)



National Skipping Day

Everyone took part in National Skipping Day today. Skipping is a great way to exercise whilst having fun. I think it is safe to say that the children and adults enjoyed taking part. Thank you to Miss Owen for organising the event.



Dates for the Diary

Mon 13th April — School re-opens
Wed 15th — Easter Mass
Thurs 16th — Y2 Forest School
Tues 21st — Football match at CHS
Tues 21st — Thurs 23rd — Y4 Residential
Thurs 23rd — Y1 Forest School
Fri 24th — Book Fair opens
Wed 29th — Thurs 30th — Y5 Bikeability
Wed 29th — Y1/2 Athletics at EBA
Thurs 30th — Reception & Nursery Forest School
Mon 4th — May Bank holiday, school closed
Tues 5th — Y4 Bikeability
Wed 6th — Y3/4 Football at All Hallows
Thurs 7th — Y5 Forest School
Fri 8th — Y2 sleepover
Mon 11th — Y6 SATS begin
Tues 13th — Reception and Y6 Class photos
Thurs 14th — Y6 Forest School
Fri 15th — Y4/5 All Hallows Presentation and Parent Picnic Lunch
Mon 18th — Parent Book Look at 3.15pm
Wed 20th — Fri 22nd — Y5 Residential
Wed 20th — Y5/6 Mixed Cricket
Thurs 21st — Y4 Forest School
Fri 22nd — Break up for Half Term
Tues — 2nd June — Back to school

Special thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our staff and governors for their continued hard work and dedication throughout this busy term.

Their commitment, care and enthusiasm make a real difference to the children each and every day, helping to create a nurturing and inspiring environment where everyone can thrive.

I am truly grateful for all that they do and the positive impact they have on our whole school community.

Dear Lord,

As we celebrate the joy of Easter, we thank You for the gift of new life and the hope that comes through the Resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Fill our school community with peace, love and kindness and help us to share Your light with others in all that we do.

May this special season remind us to care for one another, to forgive and to grow in faith each day.

Bless our families during the Easter break and bring us back together refreshed and ready to continue our journey in learning and faith.

Amen.

