

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School Newsletter

25th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see the school really come to life over the past month. With the first few weeks of the new school year behind us, pupils are now fully immersed in their learning and in everything else that makes up life at Our Lady of the Rosary. The beautiful September weather has helped too, with plenty of time spent outdoors and lots of opportunities to make the most of our school grounds.

It has been particularly lovely to how our youngest pupils have adapted to school life. Our Reception children have settled incredibly well and it already feels as though they have always been part of the school. We have continued to welcome new children into Nursery and we hope that they and their families are beginning to feel very much at home at OLRS.

School life beyond the classroom is also gathering pace. Our extra-curricular clubs have begun, giving pupils the chance to try something different, develop their interests and spend time with children from across the school. Year 6 had their retreat day at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, where they explored servant leadership and reflected on the example they can set as the oldest pupils in our school.

We finished another busy week by welcoming parents and carers into school for our Macmillan Coffee Morning today. Thank you to everyone who came along, donated or contributed to the morning. It is always lovely to have opportunities to bring our wider school community together while supporting such a worthwhile cause.

The weeks ahead will bring plenty of new learning, experiences and opportunities for the children across the school. I am looking forward to seeing what they achieve and, just as importantly, the progress they make along the way.

God Bless
Mrs. McCarthy

Catholic Life of our School

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

This year, Pope Leo XIV has chosen “Even just one of these children” as the theme for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, drawing particular attention to the experiences of children who have had to leave their homes.

As part of our Catholic Life, our KS2 children will take part in our annual walk along the river, in solidarity with children around the world who have had to leave behind their homes, schools, friends and familiar surroundings. In an age-appropriate way, the children will reflect on what this experience might mean and some of the challenges these children may face.

Pope Leo reminds us that “every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity.” Through our walk, we hope to deepen the children’s understanding of our Catholic call to recognise that dignity and respond to others with compassion, welcome and care.



Sunday 27th September 2026
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 21:28-32



This Sunday’s Gospel reminds us that our actions are often more important than the promises we make.

“He answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went.”

Matthew 21:29

This Gospel gives us an important message to share with children about choices and second chances. We can help them understand that we will not always get things right first time, but what matters is recognising when we have made a poor choice and being willing to put it right. It also reminds children that saying we will do the right thing is only the beginning; our words need to be followed by our actions.

Safeguarding

Keeping School Informed

Family life can sometimes bring changes or challenges that children may find difficult to understand or manage. A bereavement, illness, separation, a change in family circumstances or simply a particularly difficult period at home can all have an impact on how a child is feeling.

If something is happening in your family that may be affecting your child, please do let us know. You do not need to share more than you feel comfortable with, but a little context can help us to understand your child and make sure they receive the care and support they need in school. Please also remember that our support is not limited to the children. If your family is going through a difficult time, the school may be able to offer practical support or signpost you to services and organisations that can help. Sometimes knowing where to turn is the hardest part, and we are always happy to help families find the right support.

Please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the safeguarding team if there is something you would like us to know. No concern is too small to share, and you do not need to wait until things become difficult before getting in touch.

Contact Info

We want to remind all members of our school community that we have a dedicated safeguarding email address, monitored exclusively by Mrs McCarthy. This email is a safe and confidential way to:

Ask for help

Report a concern

Seek advice or guidance

Please do not hesitate to reach out if something doesn't feel right or you need support. No issue is too small, and every concern will be treated with care and sensitivity.

Email: dsl@olrs.co.uk

Celebrations and Achievements

Year 5 & 6 Boys' Football Team

Our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team represented OLRS at the Spelthorne Schools Tournament, competing in a series of hard-fought matches against other local schools. The boys worked incredibly hard throughout, showing determination and continuing to compete right until the final whistle of each game.

Although the results did not go their way on this occasion, there was plenty to be proud of in the way the team represented the school.

Their coaches were particularly impressed by their sportsmanship, team spirit and positive attitude, as well as the encouragement they showed one another throughout the tournament. Experiences such as these are about much more than the final score, and the boys can be very proud of the way they conducted themselves both on and off the pitch.

Well done to the whole team!



Please feel free to share any achievements from outside of school with us so that we can celebrate them on the newsletter. Send a brief overview with a photograph to the school office.



Golden Ticket

Each week, children who have put exceptional effort into their learning and produced work that reflects their personal best are awarded a 'Golden Ticket'. They bring their work to show Mrs. McCarthy, receive a very special golden Sticker, and have their name added to our Golden Book in recognition of their achievement.

Archie – A fabulous self-portrait, with lots of carefully observed details.

Lucia – A wonderful portrait of Mary, showing her learning about why Mary is so special.

Billy – Super writing about The Egg Box Dragon, using his phonics brilliantly to help with his spelling.

Bella – Super instruction writing, making great use of 'bossy verbs'.

Isabelle – Brilliant maths work showing a really secure understanding of greater than and less than symbols.

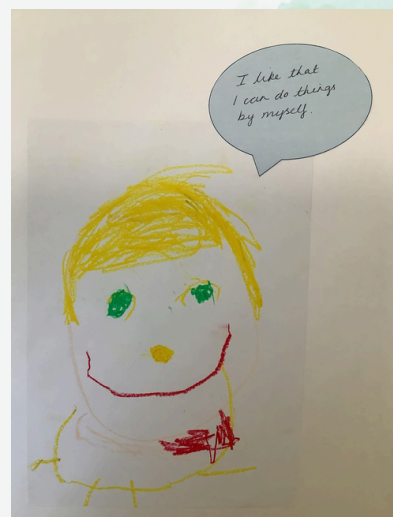
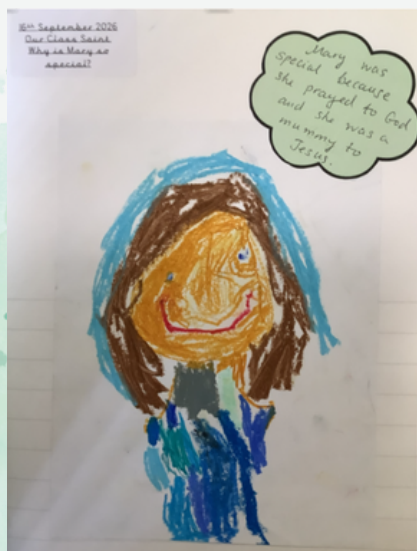
Chiziterem – An impressive piece of History writing about the life and legacy of Edith Cavell.

Joshua – Brilliant maths work, confidently ordering and comparing numbers to 1,000.

Sophia – A wonderful visual retelling of the Creation story in RE.

Aleksander – An impressive homework comic strip telling the story of St Martin de Porres and what led him to give his life to God.

Alex – A fantastic homework comic strip bringing the life of St Martin de Porres to life.



Reminders

WhatsApp

Class WhatsApp groups are a very useful way for parents to share reminders and practical information. However, if you have a question or query about school, please always contact the school in the first instance. Staff are best placed to provide accurate information and clarify anything you are unsure about, rather than information being interpreted or passed on through WhatsApp.

Please also be mindful when sharing letters or other school communications within WhatsApp groups. At times, information is sent to specific children within a class rather than to everyone. Sharing this more widely can cause confusion for other parents, who may think they have missed a communication or that the information applies to their child. It can also lead to unnecessary disappointment or upset for children.

Before sharing school communications on a class WhatsApp group, please check whether the information is intended for the whole class. This will help to avoid misunderstandings and ensure that families receive the information that is relevant to their child.

Park Avenue

There continues to be a problem with inconsiderate parking on Park Avenue at drop-off and collection times.

Please do not park in places that obstruct pavements, restrict visibility or make it difficult for children to cross the road safely. Convenience must not come at the expense of children's safety. Where possible, please park and stride, leaving the car a little further away and walking the final part of the journey. This helps to reduce congestion and makes the immediate area around the school safer for everyone.

Neighbours have also contacted the school about an increasing amount of litter being left along the pavements, much of which appears to be wrappers from snacks eaten after school. Our Pupil Parliament have already been out with litter pickers to make a positive difference to the area. Please support their efforts by reminding children that wrappers and other rubbish must be put in a bin or taken home. We want our children to take pride in the area around their school and to show consideration for those who live in our local community.



Reminders

Homework

Homework is an important part of children's learning and provides an opportunity to practise and consolidate what has been taught in school. It also helps children to develop good habits, independence and a sense of responsibility for their own learning.

Children are expected to complete homework and to put care and effort into the work they produce. The encouragement and support children receive at home makes a real difference, particularly in helping them to establish positive routines and understand that homework is valued.

Thank you for continuing to support your child by making time for homework, encouraging them to do their best and taking an interest in what they are learning. When school and home reinforce the same positive messages about effort and learning, children benefit enormously.

Mobile phones on site

A reminder that Our Lady of the Rosary is a mobile phone-free site. To support our safeguarding arrangements, mobile phones should not be used by parents and carers while on the school premises, including at drop-off and collection times.

If you need to use your phone, please wait until you have left the school site. Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe environment for all our children.

Governors Fund

The Governors' School Development Fund is in place because the school governors are responsible for a proportion of the maintenance cost of the school buildings. Without your generous contributions, we would not be able to undertake such vital projects to ensure our building remains in the best condition and facilitate a wonderful environment for the children to learn. This is an annual donation of £100 per family for the school year 2026/27 paid via MCAS. If you have any queries relating to this, please email Mrs Gray, School Business Manager, at admin@olrs.co.uk

Attendance

Good attendance is one of the most important foundations for success at school. Being in school every day means more than simply not missing lessons. It allows children to keep up with their learning, develop secure friendships, take part fully in school life and feel that they belong. Even occasional days of absence can quickly add up and create gaps in learning that can be difficult to recover.

A few important reminders:

- Absence due to illness should be reported through Studybugs. Please ensure that the Studybugs app is downloaded and ready to use. Absence should be reported on each day that a child is unable to attend school.
- Medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside school hours wherever possible. Where this is genuinely not possible, appointments should be arranged to avoid morning or afternoon registration so that the minimum amount of learning is missed.
- Please email the school office in advance with details of appointments and provide supporting evidence where available.
- Term-time leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, in line with government guidance.

Congratulations to Year 3 and Year 4, who have achieved 100% attendance this week, and to Reception, who did not miss a single day last week. Well done also to Year 5, who are currently leading the way with 99.7% attendance for the year to date.

	Last week	This week	Year to Date
Year R	100.00%	95.70%	98.30%
Year 1	99.00%	97%	96.80%
Year 2	98.30%	96.20%	97.20%
Year 3	98.60%	100.00%	99.50%
Year 4	99%	100.00%	97.60%
Year 5	99.70%	99.70%	99.70%
Year 6	97.00%	94.70%	97.10%

School Uniform

The children have returned to school looking extremely smart, and it has been lovely to see our uniform being worn with such pride.

A few reminders about our uniform expectations:

- Where the school coat is not worn, any alternative coat or jacket should be plain navy blue. This includes lighter rain jackets and waterproofs.
- Where non-branded uniform items are purchased, these should match the colour, shade and style specified in the school uniform policy.
- Socks should be above the ankle (crew style). Trainer or invisible liner socks are not part of the school uniform.
- As stated in our uniform policy, **slip-on shoes should not be worn**. These do not provide sufficient support and can present a safety risk during the school day.

All children should also have a pair of named wellies in school. Outdoor learning is an important part of school life and having suitable footwear available means that children can access our outdoor spaces throughout the year, whatever the weather.

The PTA will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale later this half term. Further details to follow.



Upcoming Events

28th September Walk for World Day of Migrants and Refugees

28th September Mr. McNulty, St. Paul's Headteacher talk
5.30pm

2nd October Reception Class Welcome Mass

5th October Individual Photographs

5th October Mrs. Wood, Gumley House talk 5.30pm

7th October Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church at 9.30am

5th to 9th October Feeling Good Week in school

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Providing Education for the Diocese of Westminster



"Teachers' subject knowledge is a strength of the school. Lessons are of high quality and pupils are supported in developing their knowledge and understanding."

Ofsted 2024

"The worship and prayer life of the school is firmly rooted in the liturgical year and reflects the richness of the Catholic tradition."

Diocese Report

OPEN EVENTS

Admission to Year 7 in 2027

Open Mornings

Thursday 24th September, 1st October and 8th October

Tours from 8.45am, 9.00am and 9.15am

Please note that tour bookings are NOT required

Open Evening

Thursday 24th September from 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Headteacher Evening Address at 5.45pm and 6.30 pm

Enquiries

Year 7

T: 01932 754213

E: admissions@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk

Sixth Form

T: 01932 754203

E: sixthform@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk

Sixth Form Open Evening

Admission to Year 12 in 2027

Wednesday 30th September from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Head of Sixth Form Evening Address at 6.30pm

St Paul's Catholic College,
Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames, Surrey, TW16 6JE
www.st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk



Open Events

Admissions to Year 7 in 2027

Open Morning

- Wednesday 16th September, Wednesday 23rd September, Tuesday 29th September
- Start time 8:45am finishing at 10am
- Please note that tour bookings are not required

Open Evening

- Thursday 1st October 5pm to 7:30pm



Scan for more school info!

Admissions to Year 12 in 2027

College Open Evening

- Thursday 10th September from 5 to 7:30pm



Scan for more sixth form info!

"Pupils flourish at this exceptional school"

- Ofsted 2024



"Students articulate a strong sense of community which they explicitly link to the school's Catholic character".

- Diocese Report 2026

School Enquiries:
01932 582520 | admissions@salesian.surrey.sch.uk

College Enquiries:
01932 578681 | collegeadmissions@salesian.surrey.sch.uk



OPEN EVENTS

for Admissions in September 2027

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Morning (9am - 11am) and
Evening (5pm - 8pm)

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2026

Morning (9am - 11am)



A Catholic Academy
of Academic and Personal Excellence



GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Ride, Boston Manor Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9LB
www.gunnersbury.com



OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

5.00pm - 7.30pm with Headteacher's address at 6.00pm and 6.45pm

OPEN AFTERNOONS

WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

1.30pm - 3.00pm with Headteacher's address at 2.30pm

MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

1.30pm - 3.00pm with Headteacher's address at 2.30pm

OPEN MORNING

WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

10.30am - 11.30am

To register: **CLICK HERE**