

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School Newsletter

9th October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and enjoyable couple of weeks at Our Lady of the Rosary, with some particularly special occasions bringing our school and parish communities together.

Last week, we celebrated our Reception Welcome Mass, a wonderful occasion when we formally welcomed our youngest pupils and children who have joined us in other year groups. Fr Philip blessed rosaries for each of our new children, which were then presented to them as a symbol of their belonging to the Our Lady of the Rosary community. It was a very special moment for the children and their families and a reminder of the importance we place on ensuring that everyone feels welcomed and valued.

On Wednesday, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, one of the most important days in our school calendar. It was wonderful to gather at church alongside members of our parish to celebrate Mass together. We are very fortunate to have such a close relationship with our parish, and occasions such as these remind us of the strength of our wider community and the faith that brings us together.

This week has also been our annual Feeling Good Week, with a whole range of activities designed to promote children's happiness, friendships and emotional wellbeing. From Wake and Shake sessions and Zumba to board games, planting, creative activities and time with buddies, there has been plenty for everyone to enjoy. It has been particularly pleasing to see children spending time together, enjoying new experiences and recognising that looking after our wellbeing can be as simple as being active, spending time outdoors or sharing a laugh with friends.

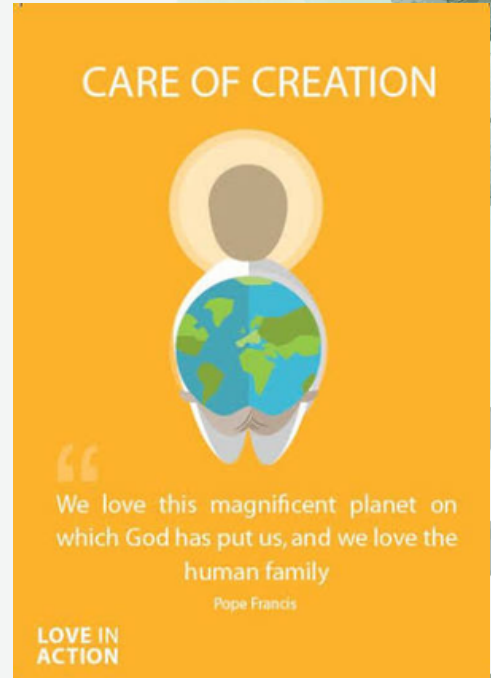
With just a couple of weeks remaining before half term, there is still plenty to look forward to. It has been a very positive start to the school year, and I hope the children continue to make the most of all that school life has to offer.

God Bless
Mrs. McCarthy

Catholic Life of our School

Catholic Social Teaching

Our Catholic Social Teaching focus this half term is Care for Creation. We are reminded that the world is a gift from God and that we all share a responsibility to look after it. Caring for creation means recognising the beauty of the natural world, respecting the resources we have been given and making thoughtful choices about how we use them. Throughout the school, children are exploring how even small actions can make a difference, from reducing waste and conserving resources to caring for our school grounds and the environment around us. Through these actions, we put our faith into practice and help to protect our common home for future generations.



Sunday 11th October 2026
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 22:1-14



“Many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:14)

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of a king who prepares a wedding banquet for his son. When those originally invited refuse to come, the king sends his servants out to invite others, welcoming people from all walks of life.

The parable reminds us that God’s invitation is open to everyone. Each of us is invited to be part of His kingdom, but we also have a responsibility to respond to that invitation through the choices we make and the way we live our lives.

As we reflect on a week in which we have celebrated our school and parish community, this Gospel encourages us to think about how we respond to God's love and how we make others feel welcome. Through simple acts of kindness, generosity and friendship, we can show that we have truly accepted His invitation.

Feeling Good Week

We have had a busy Feeling Good Week, with children across the school taking part in a range of activities to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Our Wake and Shake sessions got everyone moving at the start of the school day, with plenty of energy and enthusiasm from the children. Different year groups have also teamed up for board games sessions, giving children the chance to spend time with pupils from other classes, work together and enjoy a little friendly competition!

Our school allotments have been put to good use, with children planting flower bulbs and vegetable seeds in their allocated beds. We look forward to watching everything grow over the coming months. The children have also produced some amazing work through their Feeling Good homework projects, sharing their own ideas about the people, places and activities that make them happy. It has been wonderful to see the thought and creativity that has gone into these projects.

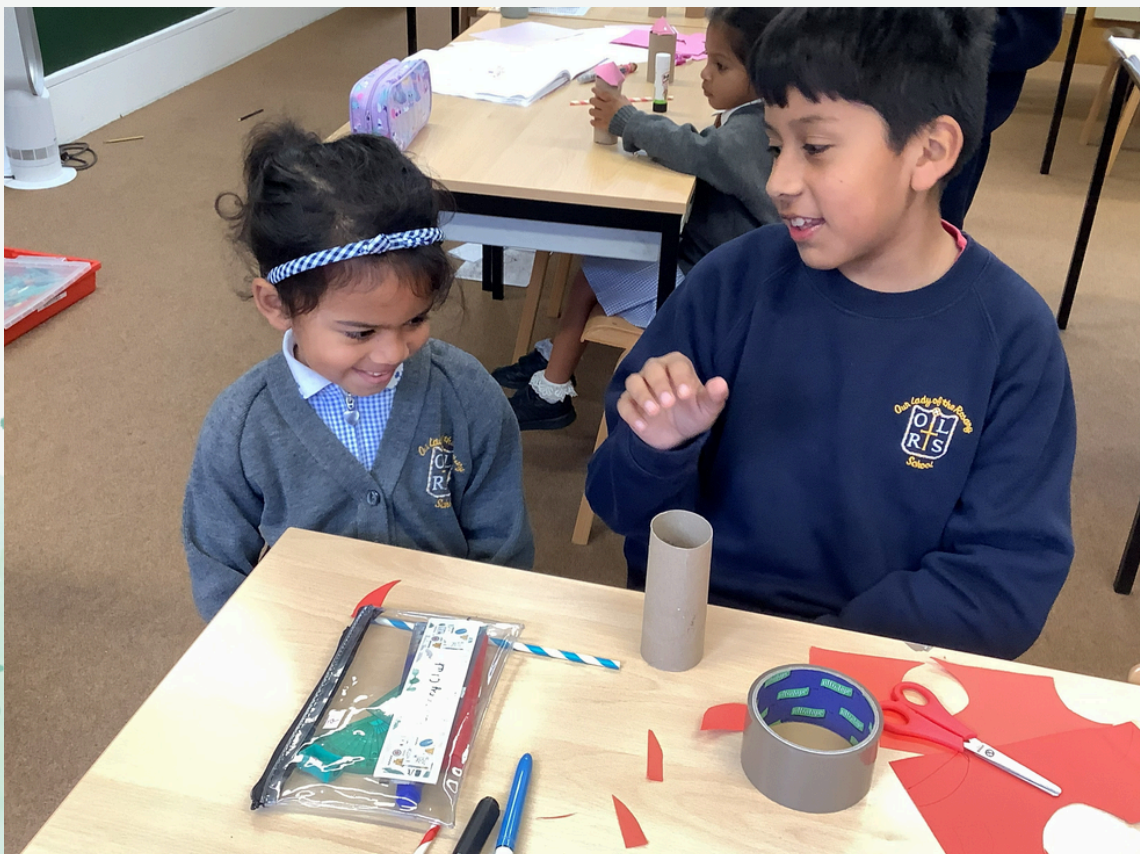
Our buddy activities have been another important part of the week. Year 5 and Reception spent time together making rockets, following explanation texts that the Year 5 children had written themselves. It was a great opportunity for our older children to share their learning with their younger buddies and put their writing to practical use.

There was also extra playtime for everyone following our Feast Day Mass on Wednesday, giving children more time to enjoy being outdoors with their friends.

On Wednesday, Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in Zumba sessions, which certainly got everyone moving! A special thank you to Mrs Greensted, one of our parents, who generously gave up her time to lead the sessions for the children. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did the staff who joined in!

Feeling Good Week has been a reminder that looking after our wellbeing doesn't have to involve anything complicated. Spending time with friends, being active, getting outdoors and making time for things we enjoy can all make a difference to how we feel.

Feeling Good Week



Feeling Good Week



Feeling Good Week



Safeguarding

Mental Health

Following our Feeling Good Week, we have been reflecting on the importance of supporting children's emotional wellbeing and helping them develop the skills to manage the challenges they encounter as they grow. Good mental health does not mean feeling happy all the time, but being able to recognise and understand different emotions, develop resilience and know when and how to seek support.

Children do not always find it easy to put their feelings into words, and worries or anxieties can sometimes be expressed through changes in behaviour, sleep, friendships or attitudes towards school. Being aware of these changes and creating opportunities for children to talk openly about their feelings can help us to understand what they may be experiencing.

Making time to talk, listening without immediately trying to solve a problem and helping children to recognise and name their feelings can make an important difference.

Children also need to know that they do not have to manage difficult feelings on their own and that there are trusted adults they can turn to.

Simple routines, time outdoors, physical activity, sufficient sleep and opportunities to relax and enjoy family time all contribute to positive mental health. Equally important is allowing children time to simply be children, without every moment being filled with organised activities or expectations.

While occasional changes in mood and behaviour are a normal part of growing up, persistent changes or worries that begin to affect everyday life should not be overlooked. Seeking support early can make a real difference.

Please remember that we are always here to listen and support families. If you have any concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing, however small they may seem, do speak to us so that we can work together to provide the right support.

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 Girls' Football Team

Our girls' football team represented the school at a recent tournament, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout. Every player had an important part to play, supporting and encouraging one another and giving their best in each match. The girls showed a wonderful team spirit and a positive attitude, even when matches proved challenging. We are very proud of the way they represented Our Lady of the Rosary, both on and off the pitch
Well done to all!



A huge well done to Harry , who recently competed in the International Hainaut Cup in Belgium, a prestigious youth judo tournament bringing together talented young competitors from seven European countries.

This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful opportunity to compete at such a high level. We are very proud of Harry's dedication and commitment.



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.

Maggie – A fabulous collage of a lily, reminding us about Our Lady.

Chizaram – A super retelling of the story of Creation.

Piper – A super list of instructions of how to make an egg-box dragon.

Ronnie– Brilliant art work to explain the meaning of the words in the Nicene Creed.

Zachary – An impressive piece of work about the story of Creation.

Noah – Amazing RE based on Genesis 1.

Lola– Super science work all about living things.

Sapphire – An impressive retelling of the story of Noah.

Luke – Super learning about the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

Ileri - Amazing writing about the work of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

Sophia - A great comparison of the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.



Golden Ticket

Harry - Amazing history learning about Stonehenge.

Ella - Impressive maths calculations when adding and subtracting in 10s.

Isabel – A well-written and very descriptive explanation text.

Ruby – Use of descriptive language techniques in her English writing.

Dio– A super experiment write-up in a lesson about states of matter.

Luna– Fabulous observations of a science experiment.

Nadia – A wonderful piece of art based on the Gospel of Matthew.

Jacob – An amazing explanation text all about how to build a rocket.

Bianca– Very impressive RE based on ‘The Greatest Commandment’.

Mylo – Brilliant sportsmanship and team-work in a cricket lesson.

Zoe - A fabulous play-script in response to Genesis 2 and what it teaches us about God.



School Uniform

Following the half-term break, children should return to school wearing their winter uniform.

Please see the requirements below:

- Boys: Grey trousers, white shirt, school tie, branded school jumper and grey socks.
- Girls: Grey skirt, white shirt, school tie, branded school cardigan, and grey socks or grey tights.

Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 should wear an elasticated school tie, while children in Years 3 to 6 should wear a traditional school tie.

As the weather becomes colder, please ensure that children have a suitable warm, waterproof coat. This should be a school coat or a **navy** equivalent. Winter hats should be school branded or in school colours. Scarves and gloves should be **grey or navy**. **Please note that ear muffs are not permitted.**

Please also ensure that all items of clothing, particularly coats, hats, jumpers and cardigans, are clearly named.

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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.

Reminders

Park Avenue

Following concerns raised by local residents about congestion, parking and driving around the school, we would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of being considerate towards our neighbours and keeping our children safe.

Please drive slowly and carefully, park responsibly and avoid blocking driveways, junctions or pavements. Where possible, we encourage families to walk to school or park a little further away and walk the final part of their journey.

At collection time, please avoid forming a queue that extends around the corner onto Park Avenue. There is no requirement to queue, and we encourage parents to gather along the pathway between the school and Park Avenue, keeping access clear for pedestrians. Arriving closer to collection time will also help reduce congestion.

We work hard to maintain positive relationships with our local residents and appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to keep our school surroundings safe and considerate for all.



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 1, who have achieved 100% attendance this week!

Well done also to Year 3 and Year 5, who are currently leading the way with 99.2% attendance for the year to date.

	Last week	This week	Year to date
Year R	98.70%	97.70%	98.10%
Year 1	97.70%	100%	97.40%
Year 2	96.60%	98.30%	97.20%
Year 3	98.30%	99.30%	99.20%
Year 4	99%	99.70%	98.30%
Year 5	97.30%	99.30%	99.20%
Year 6	92.30%	96.30%	96.10%



Upcoming Events

14th October Year 4 visit to the Teaboard Project

14th October Reception & Year 1 Phonics Information
Evening, 6pm

16th October Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Harvest Assembly,
9am

16th October Year 5 & Year 6 Pupil Parliament visit to
Spelthorne Council Chamber, 3pm-5pm

20th October Open Morning for Reception 2027

21st October Break up for half term (normal time)