



**Unlocking Potential Together  
in Faith and Love.**

**The Cathedral Catholic Primary School**  
Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT  
Tel: 01524 64686  
[www.cathedral.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.cathedral.lancs.sch.uk)

**Headteacher: Mrs N Holt**

**December 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well and ready to enjoy the rest of Advent before the wonderful celebration of Christmas.

This year has been as busy as ever in school and we have a lot to celebrate as we come to the end of 2025.

It does now seem to be in the distant past, but you will all recall the Ofsted visit earlier this year and the conclusion of the Ofsted inspection that the Cathedral Catholic Primary School is "Good." I recall in my meeting with the inspector all the wonderful things he had to say especially about the behaviour of the children and how the school lives out the Mission of our Catholic Faith.

This is down to the incredibly hard work of all the staff, led by Mrs Holt, who puts the care of children and families of our school at the heart of everything. The Governing body have thanked Mrs Holt and the team in the final Full Governing Body meeting of 2025 for the dedication that has gone on in the year.

We also welcomed Mrs Benson this last term as our new Deputy Head Teacher who is a huge support to Mrs Holt and is helping to take our school from strength to strength. We now have a strong senior leadership team comprising Mrs Holt, Mrs Benson and Mr Hodder. The governors really recognise how well this team work together for the whole school community.

The addition to our teaching family of Miss McShane, Miss Dawson and welcoming back Mr Sindall as teaching assistant has provided further strength to our school and continuity for the children and their learning.

The Governing Body committees have met in the last term and also nominated Governors have been visiting school in respect of their specialist areas (these are listed at the end of this letter). Both the committee meetings and individual visits have proved that the school development plan actions are being met and the governors are very happy with the progress.

Thank you once again to our wonderful Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who give tirelessly of their time to put on fund raising events for the benefit of our children and families.

I attended the Christmas Fair which was a great event, enjoyed by all, thank you to all those involved in making that event happen and I ask that Parent and carers continue to support the PTA in all events.

Parents and carers will be aware that the name of our Parish has changed in the last month to the Parish of St Peter and the Lancaster Martyrs. Whilst the work of our Priests, led by the Dean of the Parish Father John, is hectic now serving the wider area of Lancaster, Father John and Father Phillip have made time to come into school for Class Worship, confessions or for Mass in the Cathedral (now the Parish of St Peter and the Lancaster Martyrs). We are blessed to have such dedicated priest to care for our school community.

The times of Masses for the rest of Advent and for Christmas are on the parish newsletter, which is on the web site. Mass on Christmas morning is at 10.30am, it would be wonderful to see you all there to celebrate the birth of Christ and spend some time at the crib.

Some of you will recall in previous years, that the Bishop and Father John encouraged us to place the Crib in our homes to remind us of the importance of Christmas and provide a place to reflect on the true meaning of the season. Once again, I would commend to you that you all find a place in your homes for a crib.

I would like to close as usual by thanking every member of staff at the Cathedral, our parents, carers and children for your continued support to our school family and I hope you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas continuing unlocking potential together in faith and love.

Have a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas  
Clare  
Chair of governors

#### **The Cathedral Catholic Primary School – Governing Body Roles**

Chair of Governors – Mrs Clare Nolan-Barnes  
Vice Chair of Governors – Mrs Jim Mann

#### **Finance Premises Health and safety**

Father John Millar (Chair)  
Naley  
Ms M Smith  
Mrs C Nolan-Barnes  
Mrs Holt

#### **Faith, Community and Curriculum**

Mr P Mitchell (Chair)  
Mrs B Teasdale  
Mrs S Aravinth  
Mrs C Branscombe  
Mrs Holt

#### **Standards and Effectiveness**

Mrs J Mann  
Mr S McManhon (Chair)  
Mrs N Holt  
Mrs Dickinson

#### **Nominated Governors**

Inclusion/SEN – Mrs Teasdale  
Training Link – Ms M Smith  
EYFS – Mrs J Mann  
Safeguarding – Mrs S Aravinth  
English – Mrs J Mann  
Catholic Life and RE – Mrs C Branscombe  
Health and safety – Mrs C Nolan-Barnes  
Maths – Mr P Mitchel