

OUR LADY AND ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

5th December 2025

Dear Parents

We have a busy last couple of weeks before we break for Christmas with the children being involved in a number of events as we mark this special time. Please see the dates below highlighting the various occasions.

I would like to thank the families who came to the Y6 Advent Service at St Anthony's Church on Wednesday as part of the Our Lady's Catholic High School cluster.

Thank you to the PTA for hosting the cake sale in November – we raised £159 for St Catherine's Hospice

Last Sunday marked the start of Advent and the preparations towards Christmas. Going to Mass on Sunday can really help the children in their preparations and their understanding of this wonderful celebration. Please do what you can to help your child grow spiritually.

K Woods

Dates for your diary

Monday 8th – Friday 12th December – Year 5 Bikeability Cycle Training

Tuesday 9th December – Nativity Dress Rehearsal at 10.00am

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th December – EYFS and KS1 Nativity at 2.00pm. See details in the forthcoming events section of this newsletter

Monday 15th December – Year 6 Bikeability Cycle Training for children whose parents have already been notified

Tuesday 16th December – Whole school Mass at 9.15am in Church led by Y5 – all welcome

Tuesday 16th December – Year 5 & 6 carol singing at Springfield Manor Gardens Care Home

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas lunch & parties – own clothes day

Wednesday 17th December – EYFS & KS1 end of term assembly at 9.10am – parents welcome.

Thursday 18th December – Christmas jumper day in school – donations will go to Kalomo

Thursday 18th December – KS2 End of term assembly 9.10am – parents welcome.

Thursday 18th December – School closes at 2.30pm and re-opens on Monday 5th January 2026

Tuesday 13th January – PTA meeting & AGM – 6.00pm in school

Thursday 15th January 11.59pm – Closing date for applications for Reception Class September 2026 – including Supplementary Faith Request Form to school.

Forthcoming Events

The Nativity

The Infant children have been busy preparing for the Nativity play and the productions are fast approaching. Tickets have been sent home today with the children. There are 2 tickets per family per performance. The dress rehearsal is on Tuesday 9th December at 10.00am – we have spaces for family members to see this performance. There are two afternoon performances on Tuesday 9th December and Wednesday 10th December at 2.00pm.

Photography / Videography will not be permitted at the Nativity

Entry is strictly by ticket only (for health & safety reasons). If you do not have a ticket you will not be permitted into the performance. Everyone over the age of 5 will need a ticket. Children under 5 with no ticket must sit on their parent's knee!

We shall have a retiring collection for Kalomo.

Christmas Parties - Wednesday 17th December

Christmas parties for all will take place during the afternoon. This is a non-uniform day. Children are asked to come to school in their "party clothes".

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 18th December

Children can come to school in a Christmas jumper instead of school jumper – all other uniform remains the same. Donations to Kalomo. You don't have to buy a Christmas jumper – just decorate a jumper that you already have with tinsel etc.

Morning Drop Off

We have noticed an increasing number of pupils arriving in school before 8.40am. A reminder to parents that pupils should not arrive at school before 8.40am as a member of staff is only on duty at the school gate from this time. If you do need to drop off before this time, pupils should be booked into the Before School Club.

TenTen Newsletter

As a school we subscribe to the TenTen resources which we use in assemblies, class worship and staff prayer. Please read the newsletters each month as they provide useful information and spiritual guidance, supporting the work we do in school. Below is a link to the parent newsletter

www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

St Edward's School Club

All children attending St Edward's School Club should be registered before any sessions are booked. If you are wanting to book sessions for the first time you must contact the school office.

Please remember the following:-

Whilst bookings can be made at any time, should a place be required within 48 hours please also email the school office to let them know a booking has been made. If you are booking over the weekend for a Monday slot, the office should also be informed via email.

Cancellations can be made at any time by contacting the school office but refunds will only be given for cancelled sessions provided that we are informed by 10.30am the previous school working day (this includes weekends and school holidays). For example – if a Monday session needs to be cancelled then you will need to contact the school office by 10.30am on the Friday before. Sessions cancelled after this time will not be refunded. Once booked, sessions cannot be swapped – the session would have to be cancelled and a new booking made.

Adventure Areas

A reminder to all pupils and parents that the adventure areas on both playgrounds are not to be used at the end of the school day.

We ask also that infant children who have been collected and are waiting for their older sibling are supervised. There have been a number of occasions where children have been engaging in dangerous behaviours. We ask that parents inform other family members, who collect their child(ren), to ensure the children are supervised at all times.

Term Dates

Term dates for 2025/26 were emailed to parents in November

Value of the Month

The value for December is **FORGIVENESS**. During Advent, it is important for us all to show compassion to others through the act of forgiving. Preparing for Christmas with a pure soul and an open heart and mind, will prepare a space for Jesus. Please help your child to understand what it means to forgive and to be forgiven; to forget when wrong has been done and to have the ability to move on.

Arbor

Please keep a check on Arbor as your balance for school lunches should always be in credit.

PTA News

Tuesday 13th January – PTA meeting & AGM – 6.00pm in school. Please join us if you can.

Have you signed up to the School Lottery yet? We only have 22 members and need lots more!! You can join for £1 per week and the profits come back to the school either in direct fundraising or as cash prizes for our school families and there are some big prizes to be won! A number of draws have taken place with members winning money. Join here:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/our-lady-and-st-edwards-catholic-primary-school>

Easy Fundraising - Have you downloaded the Easyfundraising app yet?

easyfundraising is the simplest way to raise money for Our Lady & St Edward's Primary School PTA – We have raised over £1,100 so far!

Shop with any of over 3,300 well-known retailers via the easyfundraising website

- <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/UJXGFK/MHPPE8/>

When you click on this link just search for the cause – Our Lady & St Edward's Primary School PTA. It's simple and quick to do!

Sports News

Y5/6 Boys' Football - the boys competed in league & cup matches this month with mixed results.

Y5/6 Girls' Football – the girls competed in a cup match winning 12-0

U7 Mini Skills – team achieved 4th place

Triathlon – The team achieved 3rd place – congratulations to all involved

A group of our Y5/6 pupils spent a day at the Preston City Indoor Sportshall Games Event – a great time was had by all

Y5/6 Gymnastics – The team achieved 2nd place with two of our pupils in the top 3 - Frankie & Max. Congratulations to the team.

Thank you to the staff who take time out of their day to train the pupils for all of the sport events

Attendance

Good attendance in school is essential for a number of reasons firstly to ensure children meet their academic milestones, to ensure continuity of learning and to maintain friendships. Children who are frequently absent struggle to secure these aspects. We understand that illness cannot be avoided and we recognise that there are times when it is essential that a child is absent from school.

From January 1st 2025 a further rule was applied for excessive unauthorised leave of 15 school days or more which could result in a fine of up to £2500 and a criminal record. LCC are responsible for issuing the penalty notices and fines. Monies collected from the fines are retained by LCC and not individual schools.

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Lunch

All children are invited to have a Christmas Lunch. The cost is £2.90 per child (KS2 only – KS1 children are free). If your child normally brings in a packed lunch on a Wednesday but wishes to have a Christmas Lunch, please complete and return the slip.

Menu for Christmas Lunch

Roast Turkey Fillet with 'Pigs in Blankets' & Gravy
or Pasta Bake or

Roast Quorn Fillet & Quorn Mini Sausage & Gravy,
Carrots & Broccoli
Roast Potatoes, Mashed Potato

Christmas Ice Cream Tub - Yoghurt – Fruit

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 17th December

Name of Child

My child would like a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 17th December.

- ☐ I enclose £2.90 per child (KS2 pupils only to pay)
- ☐ Please deduct £2.90 from my child's Arbor balance (KS2 pupils only to pay)
- ☐ My child is a vegetarian and needs a vegetarian meal

Signed

Date

****Please do not complete this slip if your child normally has a school lunch on a Wednesday, as this causes great confusion for Mrs Kippax & Mrs Rutter!!! Thank you ****



School Uniform Reminder

Please see below details of uniform expectations. If in doubt please call into the school office where you will be able to see samples. All uniform is available at 'Bang Bang' uniform shop in Preston City Centre and online from Stitch Design www.stitchdesign.co.uk

- Trousers, skirts, shorts and pinafores should be **grey NOT black**
- Cardigans and sweaters should have the school logo
- **School shoes** should be a **full shoe with secure fastenings** and **not slip on shoes**. Therefore, if you are buying new shoes please select a full shoe which fastens. Children can wear laced shoes as long as they know how to tie them. Pupils are expected to wear shoes to and from school and are allowed to change into trainers at lunchtime for comfort whilst playing games.
- **PE kits should be grey school hoodie and black shorts (not cycling shorts) and black tracksuit bottoms/leggings. These must be plain and not contain any logos/stripes or patterns.** Girls in KS2 can continue to wear the blue skirt if they wish. Most of the supermarkets sell plain black shorts and tracksuit bottoms. Children may continue to wear the old uniform of blue shorts etc until they grow out of them so that parents are not going to an extra expense. PE t-shirts are house team t-shirts only.
- School caps & hats are available from Bang Bang - Legionnaire's cap aimed at the KS1 children, and baseball cap aimed at the KS2 children. Alternatively pupils can wear a plain coloured hat with no logo
- **Extreme hairstyles** are **not permitted** in school which includes any shaved shapes/partings. If hair clippers are used, **no lower than a number 2** is allowed on any part of the head and hair should be a blended cut with no ridges or lines. An excess of hair gel is also not allowed. Girls hair accessories are to be in school/hair colours only and of a reasonable size.
- **Ear-rings** are not permitted in school. Anyone who has had their ears pierced during the holidays and is waiting for the 6 weeks before they can be removed must cover their ear-rings with plasters. They must be removed as soon as possible. Plastic retainers may be worn but must be removed for PE/Sports.
- **Sunglasses are not permitted** in school (unless permission has previously been granted for medical purposes).
- A reminder too that all drinks bottles brought into school should only be filled with water – no juice. **Please ensure that the drink bottle is only a small bottle as we have limited space in class to store these we have noticed that a number of children are bringing in extremely large bottles.**
- Due to the limited space in EYFS & KS1 classrooms only school blue bags and drawstring PE bags should be brought into school in these classes. At times when children are required to bring additional equipment into school, eg extra-curricular sports kit, they should bring it in a small carrier bag.
- Children in KS2 can bring in a rucksack instead of the school blue bag. PE kits should be in a separate drawstring bag and must be in school at all times.