



# Headteacher's Newsletter

February 2026



## **THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDES:**

School premises  
improvements

Key Dates

Celebrating  
Attendance

The Season of Lent

Past Month in  
photos

Success at Home

## **FEBRUARY**

February was a short month at St Ursula's, with only three weeks of term time, yet it was still full of exciting developments and achievements.

Significant progress has been made on our school site, and this edition will provide you with detailed updates on these improvements.

As we enter the season of Lent, a particularly special time for us as a Catholic school, this newsletter will share ways for parents to celebrate Lent with their children at home. We are also excited to announce our annual Easter Garden competition, a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to engage creatively with this important season.

We are also proud to share that St Ursula's has received an attendance award for the last academic year, a testament to the commitment of our pupils and families.

Finally, our 'Success at Home' page is brimming with stories of talents and skills from our pupils that are definitely worth celebrating.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Headteacher's newsletter and find it both informative and inspiring.

***"With God at the heart of our St Ursula's family,  
we welcome all as we learn and grow together."***

# SCHOOL PREMISES IMPROVEMENTS



During the February half term, while the school was closed to staff and pupils, our site manager, Mr. Junnix, oversaw the start of some important and exciting improvements across the school site.

The first phase of window replacements began in our Key Stage 2 building, with many classrooms now featuring brand-new windows. These works will continue during the Easter holidays, with all windows across the entire school set to be replaced by August 2026. This upgrade will not only enhance the appearance of our school but also improve comfort and energy efficiency for our pupils and staff.

In addition to the window works, progress has been made on improving our school pathways. The steps between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have been removed and replaced with a gently sloping pathway. This new design will make movement between the buildings safer and more accessible.

Another exciting development is the installation of the beginning of our pathway canopy. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, we are installing a canopy to connect the upper and lower buildings. This will provide shelter and ensure a safer, drier journey between the blocks during less favourable weather conditions. Below, you will find some photos showcasing the progress on the pathway and canopy works.

You may have also noticed that the sign on the Key Stage 2 block was removed during the half-term break. The previous sign was not only weather-damaged but also displayed an outdated mission statement from when the school was a junior school. Interestingly, this sign had replaced an original wooden crucifix that was part of the building's heritage. We are currently working on a replacement that honours our Catholic faith and pays tribute to the original feature installed when the school was first built.

Thank you for your continued support as we enhance our school environment to better serve our pupils and community.



# CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE



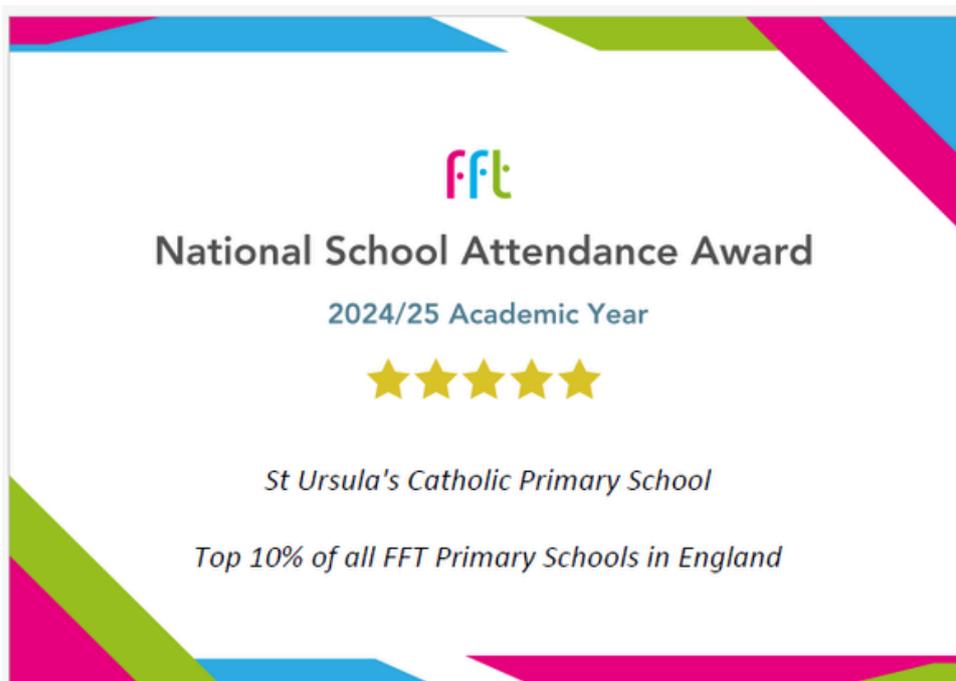
At St Ursula's, we work hard to create a welcoming environment where every child feels safe, valued, and ready to learn. Our strong attendance figures are a testament to this work.

We know that regular attendance is key to your child gaining the greatest benefit from their education. When pupils attend school consistently, they have the best chance to make excellent progress and enjoy all the opportunities we provide.

As part of our commitment to supporting all families, we use a data-driven approach to monitor attendance closely. When a pupil's attendance falls below 90%, which is classified as persistent absence, we are required to communicate with parents and the Education Welfare Officer (EWO). Please be assured that when we are informed about the reasons for absence, we share this important context with the EWO to ensure full understanding of each family's circumstances.

We understand that receiving attendance letters can sometimes cause concern, especially if you have been regularly communicating with us about your child's absences. Please know these letters are part of our standard procedure to ensure we meet statutory requirements. Rest assured, we always consider each individual situation carefully and work with families to provide the support needed.

We are proud to announce that for the last academic year, St Ursula's was awarded an attendance award for being in the top 10% of schools nationally. This achievement is thanks to the dedication of our pupils and the support of our families—thank you!



# EMBRACING THE SEASON OF LENT AT ST URSULA'S



During the season of Lent, we at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School embrace this special time with reflection, prayer, and community spirit. Lent is a meaningful period in the Church's calendar, inviting us all to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter.

Throughout Lent, our school community will focus on this journey through our Gospel Assemblies and daily prayer and liturgy. These moments help our pupils deepen their understanding of faith and encourage them to live out the values of kindness, respect, and resilience in their daily lives.

We warmly invite you to join in this spiritual journey at home with your children. Our school uses the Ten:Ten portal, which offers wonderful resources for families to engage with Lent together. You can access these materials by visiting <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/> and logging in with the following details:

- Username: parents-st-ursulas-catholic-primary-school
- Password: StUrsulas

Additionally, we are excited to announce our annual Easter Garden Competition, which encourages children to express their creativity and faith through this beautiful tradition. We look forward to seeing the imaginative and heartfelt gardens that our pupils will create.

Thank you for supporting your child's faith journey during this important season. Together, we continue to nurture a community where Christ is truly at the heart of all we do.



# Easter Garden Competition!



Do you enjoy being creative?

Model making or even designing your own garden?

THEN WHY NOT...

## **ENTER OUR AMAZING EASTER GARDEN COMPETITION!**

- To enter you need to create an Easter garden from recycled materials or you can grow your own!
- **Your garden should remind us of what happened to Jesus during Holy Week.**
- All entries must have your **full name, year group and class** written on them.
- Bring them in to school on **Wednesday 25th March** and keep them in your classroom.
- We will take pictures and then we will judge them.
- The winner for each category will get a prize!
- **The prize categories will be:**
  - Nursery and Reception**
  - Year 1 and 2**
  - Year 3 and 4**
  - Year 5 and 6**

**GET CREATIVE!! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR ENTRIES!**

**FROM THE FAITH IN ACTION TEAM 😊**

# THE PAST MONTH IN PHOTOS



# Success at Home



We are so proud to announce that Sophia has successfully passed her Gymnastics Preparation 2 exam. Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance are truly paying off. Keep shining and reaching for new heights!

Nathan, Noah, and Noel have displayed remarkable bravery, resilience, and maturity during a very challenging time recently. The strength and courage they have shown have been truly inspirational, demonstrating their ability to face adversity with determination and grace. Their positive attitude and perseverance are a testament to their character and growth.



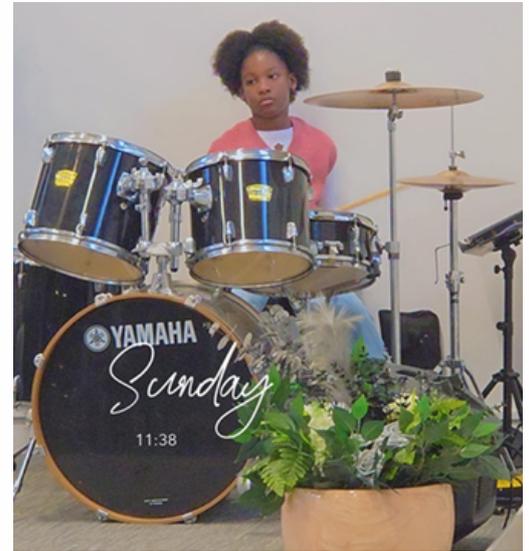
This February, Eric attended ski school and achieved an outstanding accomplishment. At the end of the programme, he participated in a contest and was awarded a Gold medal for his excellent performance. We are incredibly proud of Eric's dedication and success in this challenging sport!



John has been working hard at home on his Lego creations. He successfully completed a challenging Lego set designed for children aged 9 and above, doing so independently in just five hours.

Beau only began dance classes in October 2025, and already she has achieved something wonderful! She performed confidently on stage in a troupe dance at the Barking, Dagenham & Harold Hill competition, in front of both an audience and judges.

Recognising Beau's natural shyness in groups and social situations, the dance school awarded her a Trophy for her courage and participation. Onwards and upwards for Beau!



We are delighted to share Danika's wonderful achievement! After participating in music lessons with the Totally RAD team every Monday at school, Danika confidently applied her skills by playing the drums during the Sunday service on 15th February. Her dedication and progress in music are truly inspiring, and we are so proud to see her talents shining both in school and in our community.

## WELL DONE!



REMINDER

# UPCOMING DATES

## *Spring Term 2*

6th March - Parent Coffee Morning – 8:45am

6th March - World Book Dress-Up Day

11th March - Year 1 Assembly Celebration of Learning! at 9:00am

13th March - Science Dress-Up Day

24th March - Year 4 Easter Production – 9:00am

25th March- Easter Egg Hunt

26th March- Whole School Easter Mass (Years 1-6) – 9:30am

27th March- Parent Coffee Morning (Easter Crafting) – 8:45am

27th March - Be Bright Day

27th March- End of Term Reports sent out

27th March - Early Closure – 1:00pm