



Headteacher's Newsletter

— March & April 2026 —



THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDES:

Book Week
School premises improvements
Science Week
Crowning Of Mary
Easter Garden Winners
Success at Home
Key Dates

MARCH & APRIL

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break! The weeks before the holiday were busy and joyful – packed with learning, creativity and community.

In March we held Book Week and British Science Week, enjoyed three dress-up days, welcomed parents for a coffee morning and filled the hall with families at our Easter crafting morning. We celebrated pupil achievement in two wonderful assemblies (Year 1's Celebration of Learning and Year 4's Easter production), and pupils enjoyed trips to the local library, a science visit to Romford and an adventure to Colchester Zoo. We also enjoyed a Rock Steady concert and finished the term with an uplifting Easter Mass. The start of this summer term has been a little less busy but still filled with lots of learning.

In this issue we will share highlights and photos from events over the past 2 months and update you on the major building works currently underway at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

BOOK WEEK 2ND-6TH MARCH



Thank you to all parents and carers for helping make Book Week at St Ursula's a lively, inclusive celebration of reading. The week ran from Monday 2 March to Friday 6 March 2026, with World Book Day on Thursday 5 March and our dress-as-a-book-character day on Friday 6 March.

On the Monday we launched the week in every class with a presentation explaining the activities and the Book-in-a-Box competition. This year's theme for world book day was 'You are a reader' and children were invited to bring in and share their favourite books.

Thursday 5 March (World Book Day) was the heart of the celebration. Every pupil received a World Book Day token so they can choose a book of their own from participating bookshops. Year 1 visited the local library in the morning, while Years 2, 3 and 4 took part in a virtual Little People, Big Dreams author event in the afternoon.

Across the school we ran paired reading sessions: 15 pupils from each class swapped to read with a pupil in a different year group for 20-30 minutes, supported by teachers and teaching assistants.

Friday 6 March was our dress-up day. Children (and staff!) came as a favourite book character.

Throughout the week we also welcomed parents as "Mystery Readers". Classes loved the surprise guest readers – thank you to everyone who kept their identity secret until the door opened. The Book-in-a-Box competition produced some wonderfully creative entries; boxes were displayed in classrooms, judged after school and winners were announced during our Achievement assemblies.

Thank you to parents who supplied books, volunteered as Mystery Readers, helped with costumes and supported entries for the Book-in-a-Box competition.





SCHOOL PREMISES IMPROVEMENTS



Thank you for your ongoing support as the major improvement works at St Ursula's continue. During the Easter half term contractors completed the new canopy between our two school buildings; this now provides reliable cover for pupils, families and staff moving between classrooms and reduces disruption on wet days.

Further windows in the Key Stage 2 building were replaced over the break and classrooms are already noticeably warmer on cold days and brighter throughout the day. Year 1 returned after Easter to fully refurbished toilets, and work to refurbish the remaining pupil toilets began during the break and will continue during the May half term and across the summer holidays so we can complete these with the least possible disruption to teaching and learning.

We have also repaired and tarmacked additional walkways to improve accessibility around the site. The programme of works remain on track with the aim that every pathway will be repaired or replaced by August 2026.

During the summer term we plan to complete the school uniform shop and the Prayer chapel, and to install three reading pods – one on each playground – to provide pupils with extra quiet reading and reflection spaces at break and lunchtime.

We have phased works carefully to protect teaching time and pupil safety. Noisy or intrusive tasks are scheduled to avoid lesson time.

These improvements are about more than buildings: warmer, brighter classrooms, improved toilet facilities and better-accessible paths all contribute to pupil comfort, attendance and readiness to learn. The new reading pods and Prayer chapel will support both our Catholic life and the development of vocabulary, spoken language and reading habits.

Thank you again for your understanding and continued support as we make these important improvements for our pupils.



SCIENCE WEEK

9th - 13th March

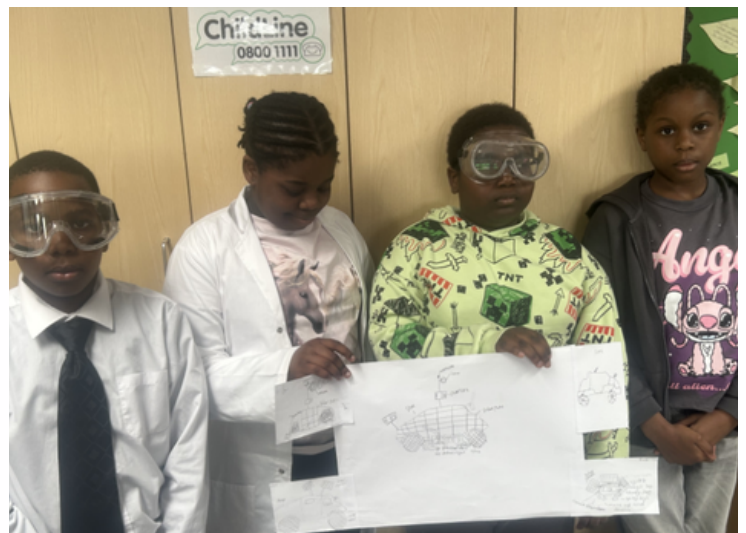


During British Science Week (9–13 March 2026) children at St Ursula's brought curiosity to the centre of their learning and enjoyed a rich programme of practical, enquiry-led activities linked to this year's theme, "Curiosity: what's your question?".

Two teams of Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school in the area heat of the Nation Championships Science Quiz, competing against over 30 other schools. Each team answered 30 multiple-choice questions covering a wide range of science topics and difficulty levels. The event emphasised careful teamwork and thoughtful discussion, as children were encouraged to confer before committing to their answers. Our teams had practised in the weeks beforehand and we were immensely proud of their preparation, resilience and sportsmanship.

Our Year 3 pupils took part in School Slime Workshops at Gootopia that turned chemistry into a hands-on experience. Children investigated the chemical properties of slime, learned how different materials behave and why those properties matter. The visit made abstract ideas tangible and left pupils with practical vocabulary and memories to draw on in future lessons.

Across the school teachers delivered activities tied to the British Science Week brief and on the Friday pupils and staff celebrated by dressing in science-related costumes – doctors, lab technicians, astronauts, vets and famous scientists – which added a fun, aspirational element and gave pupils a chance to talk about science careers and roles.



CROWNING OF MARY



The Crowning of Mary will be taking place on Friday 8th May 2026 at 2:30pm. The Crowning of Mary is a Catholic celebration held during the month of May. During the procession our statue of Mary will be crowned with a crown of flowers to honour her as “the Queen of May.” The celebration will be led by Year 3 pupils and Year 3 parents and carers are warmly invited to join us.

Our Pupil Chaplains will be on hand to welcome visitors and show them to their seats. Weather permitting, the service will take place outside by the Willow Dome; if it is raining we will use the Key Stage 2 hall instead.

As we did last year, we are asking our school community to bring in plants between Monday 4 May and Friday 8 May. These plants will be used as part of the celebration and will later be planted around the school to brighten our grounds. We look forward to sharing this special tradition with you.

NURSERY SPACES AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 2026



ST. URSULA'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL



NURSERY

SPACES AVAILABLE
FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Ofsted said...

“Pupils’ behaviour is excellent. This is because the school’s core values, including kindness and forgiveness, are part of the culture.”

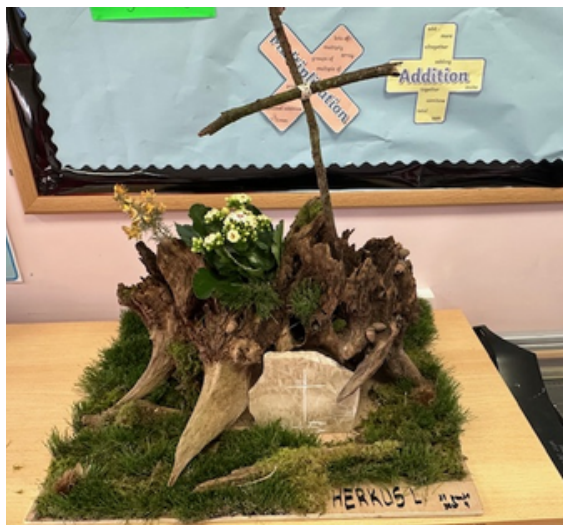
“Mental health and well-being have a high status. Adults provide exceptional support to pupils in managing their emotions and feelings.”

“Behaviour in classrooms and around the school is exemplary. This is because all staff have consistently high expectations.”

APPLY NOW



EASTER GARDEN WINNERS 2026



Congratulations to all the children and families for their efforts.

This Year's winners were:

Herkus, Emilia, Kaia, Alex and Aavya



Class	Km
St Jude's	2327km
St Thomas'	545.97km
Year 2	392km each!

Grand total for the whole school	4599km!!!
Total raised for CAFOD	£ still counting...

Thank you so much to all pupils and staff for taking part in the Big Lent Walk! It was a huge undertaking and we are so very proud of your achievements!

Massive thanks to all staff, pupils and parents for their donations! We will let you know how much money was raised as soon as we can!

Success at Home



Congratulations to Jake who achieved his level 4 in swimming. He is now starting his Level 5 and looking to continue with his excellent progress.

WELL DONE!



Well done Zara! She took part in her first gymnastics competition and showed wonderful confidence and determination throughout the event. It was a memorable milestone for her!



Alessia has been very busy outside of school!

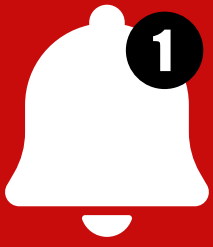
She won two trophies for scoring higher marks for ballet and greek dances, taking 1st place in the competition, juried by British Theatre Association.

In addition to her dancing success, Alessia also took part in the Swimathon, swimming 500m in 27 minutes, raising £229 for Marie Curie & Cancer Research.



Following a successful trial at Arsenal FC, Malachai was signed and is now registered with the Premier League as an Arsenal youth academy player.

Malachai's first scouting journey began when he was in Year 4 playing at the Inter-School tournament for St Ursula's in September 2023. He was scouted by West Ham and invited to their development centre, and this was the first of many opportunities for Malachai to develop with a number of top academies, thus resulting in his eventual signing with Arsenal.



REMINDER

UPCOMING DATES

7th May Polling Day - School Closed

8th May Year 3 Crowning of Mary 2:30pm

8th May - Year 1 Thorndon Park Trip

11th-14th May Year 6 SATs

15th May Reception Phonics Meeting

19th May Reception Assembly - Celebration of Learning 9:00am

21st May Pentecost Mass - Year 1 & Year 5 at

22nd May Parent Coffee Morning

5th June Parent Coffee morning

11th June New 2026 Nursery Intake Meeting

18th June New Reception Intake Meeting

12th June Sports Day

15th -17th June Year 6 Residential

13th May EYFS - Wellgate Farm visiting School

10th June Year 4 Stubbers Trip

12th June Year 4 MTC Testing

15th June EYFS Little City Visit

15th June Year 1 Theatre Production

19th June Hoffman Cup and Clare Cup

19th June Year 6 Junior Citizenship Trip

29th June Feast of Saint Peter and Paul Mass

2nd July Nursery Graduation Celebration

3rd July Parent Coffee Morning

4th July Summer Fete

7th July - Year 2 Sea Life Centre Trip

8th July Year 5 Walsingham House Trip

9th July Class Transition Day & Meet your new teacher afternoon

9th July End of Year Reports

10th July Year 6 Leavers' Production

13th July Year 6 Leavers' Mass 2:00pm

17th July Early Closure at 1:00pm