Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School Prestwich

Mr Collins' Newsletter November 26-27

We have done so much since I last wrote to you. All firmly rooted in our Catholic Faith and care for one another.

Catholic Life & Mission. A highlight for me recently was having the privilege to attend a wonderful Reception Stay & Pray Session, led so lovingly by Mrs Hamer, her dedicated team and our delightful Reception children. The session was centered all around Creation, perfectly in line with Bishop John Arnold's Laudato Si' message, which is so close to our hearts here at Our Lady of Grace. It was great to see our youngest pupils leading their families in prayer, displaying such reverence, joy, awe and wonder for God's world. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who attended in such fantastic numbers to share in this special morning.

The Poppy Appeal: As we move through November, our focus turns to remembrance and honouring those who selflessly served and sacrificed for our peace. Throughout this month, our school is actively supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, with poppies and remembrance items available in school.

Next week, we look forward to a Remembrance Day Assembly, which is being thoughtfully prepared and led by Miss Skarratt. This assembly will give the children a meaningful moment to gather in quiet prayer, gratitude and reflection as we remember.






Children with Additional Needs. Our Catholic mission calls us to ensure that every single child is loved, supported and nurtured to reach their full, God-given potential — especially our most vulnerable learners. Following valuable feedback from parents, I am pleased to announce that I have instructed a highly regarded, specialist local private firm to work alongside our school to further enhance our SEND provision. I want to pay tribute to Mr Barker, who has done great things and led wonderful SEND initiatives across school. Mr Barker will work hand-in-hand with the new external SENDCO and specialist team as they introduce cutting-edge staff training, enhanced individual monitoring and targeted support frameworks. This additional expertise and dedicated resource will build directly upon our strong foundation, ensuring our provision remains exceptional for every child. Watch this space!

Year 6 Gold Tie Presentation. A proud moment for our eldest pupils! Again, following parental feedback, we were delighted to invite Year 6 parents (for the first time) to witness their children receive a Gold Tie. It was a fantastic assembly celebrating leadership and responsibility. Thank you to staff for nominations and to the Y6 & Office Team for coordinating.





Exciting Hands-On Learning (Stone Age & History VR Day). Learning has been alive across all year groups. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed bringing their History topic to life through an immersive Stone Age project. Thank you Mrs Sinclair! Furthermore, the children were spellbound during our recent History VR (Virtual Reality) Day, stepping back in time to explore historical worlds up close — an experience they absolutely loved! Thank you Mrs Poole! I have also been speaking to Y1 & Y2 children and they have really enjoyed learning about Animals and Sea Creatures, they spoke very enthusiastically about their learning! Thank you to the Key Stage 1 Team.

Black History Month & Catholic Mission. Throughout October, every class took part in rich Black History Month assemblies and activities, linking directly to our Catholic mission and British Values of respect, dignity and equality. Among many inspiring figures, children explored the extraordinary story of Katherine Johnson, the pioneering NASA mathematician whose incredible calculations were vital to early spaceflights.

Fire Safety & Bonfire Night Visit. Ahead of Bonfire Night, safety was high on our agenda. We were delighted to welcome the local Fire Brigade, who arrived in their fire engine to deliver vital safety workshops. The firefighters reminded the children of key safety rules: keeping a safe distance from sparklers/fireworks and bonfires, wearing gloves and remembering 'Stop, Drop and Roll'.

Sport at OLOGPrestwich. It has been an extraordinary term on the sports field! Recently school teams faced arch-rivals St Philip's (Servite's) in a high-stakes cross-borough derby pitting the Top Catholic Primary School in Bury against the Top Catholic Primary School in Salford. Our Netball Team put on a breathtaking display of precision, speed and accuracy, securing a remarkable 20–0 victory! Not to be outdone, our Football Team produced a thrilling performance to defeat St Philip's 6–2! While the scores reflect an incredible level of athleticism and technical skill, what made me proudest as Headteacher was the impeccable sportsmanship, teamwork and humility shown by all our players. Both matches were played in a wonderful spirit of mutual respect and friendship between two fantastic Catholic schools. Huge congratulations to all the players and dedicated coaches!

Admissions. Following the best attended EYFS Open Day we have ever held, admissions officially opened for our Early Years Foundation Stage for January and September 2027! If you have family, friends, or neighbours who are looking for a primary school place, please do encourage them to come and see what makes Our Lady of Grace so special. We have so much to offer every child — from our caring Catholic ethos and outstanding academic standards to our rich extra-curricular opportunities. Prospective parents are warmly invited to book onto our next School Tour on the Tuesday, 17th November and Thursday, 3rd December via the school office. All welcome. All belong.

An Enriching Curriculum During November. A dynamic series of interactive assemblies bringing our French curriculum to life through song, story and conversation. Phase 2 Science Trip to IMAX (Y4, Y5 & Y6): In a fantastic 'first' for our school, Phase 2 pupils will be travelling by Metrolink Tram directly to the IMAX Cinema at the Printworks for an awe-inspiring Space documentary, linking directly to our Science curriculum. We also have Y3 looking forward to participating in a 'live lesson' (very exciting), Y2 beginning the always popular Great Fire of London Topic and Y1 & EYFS hosting craft mornings for their mums & dads.

Friends of Our Lady of Grace. A huge thank you to everyone who baked, donated and bought delicious treats at our recent Cake Sale! Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised a fantastic £400+! Looking ahead, our highly anticipated Film Nights will be returning soon — these are always immensely popular and thoroughly enjoyed by the children (further details will be sent). Our relaunched PTA group is continually seeking new ways to bring our community together. Everyone is welcome to join in — whether you offer an hour or an idea!

200 Club Winners! Huge congratulations to our November 200 Club Winner Ella P (F2), whose name was drawn by a Year 6 pupil. Ella has won £60! Fancy joining in the fun? Sign up for our £5 monthly draw and you could be next:

Friends of Our Lady of Grace: Sort 01-07-20 | Acc. 04001990 | Ref: [Child's Name]

Have a brilliant month and don't forget to follow all our adventures on Instagram **@ologprestwich**

Tom Collins

MR T COLLINS BA (HONS) NPQH
Headteacher

"Our Lady of Grace is an outstanding Catholic Primary School" - RE Inspection
"Pupils enjoy belonging to this school community" - Ofsted Inspection