



Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School
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NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

SCHOOL PLACES

At this time of year parents across the country are finalising their preferences for primary school admissions for children starting reception in September 2025, the portal is open until 15th January 2025 to adjust online forms. As a school which is quite hidden away and a school which may have a historical (out of date) reputation for only accepting applications from Catholic children, it is important that we promote what we offer for all local children. If you know someone who is currently deciding where to send their child, please suggest considering Our Lady of Grace. We have a modern, purpose built Early Years Centre, beautiful grounds, exceptional results at the end of Y2 & Y6 (well above many local schools) and a dedicated & loving teaching team. Both myself and Mrs Harrington are available to deliver full school tours for prospective parents (any year group) on 9th & 10th January at 9:30am or 2pm, please contact the school office if you wish to attend one of the tours.

RE INSPECTION

The Diocesan Team of Inspectors (which consisted of 3 serving Executive Headteachers!) visited our school on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December. The inspectors (amongst other things) observed every teacher teaching (at least twice) and looked at a wide range of pupil's books. They spoke with myself at length, as well as holding interviews with the Senior Leadership Team, Staff Representatives, Governors, Pupils and Parents. I am extremely pleased with the outcome. It is always lovely to hear positive reports about our school. I am not permitted to give more information at this point. The report will be published within the next 4 weeks. Parents will be informed when it is available to be viewed. Thank you to everyone who supported school by completing questionnaires. It was lovely to read all your positive comments.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS FUN

It is impossible to write about all the lovely events we have organised this month.

I have listed the main ones below. Photographs and further information can be found on the School Website <https://shorturl.at/M6s1w>

- Holy Mass
- Card Making
- Christmas Dinner
- Christmas Film
- Nativity
- Assemblies
- Pantomime
- Early Years Party
- B49A3 Party
- Carols by Candlelight

HOLIDAY PATTERN & CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Holiday Pattern for Academic Year 2025-26 can now be viewed on the school website. A paper copy (green coloured) of the Calendar of Events for Spring Term 2025 will be sent home with your child. Any new dates arising will be communicated in writing. All dates are also added to our school website <https://www.ourladyofgracercprimaryschool.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/12/>

UNWANTED GIFT DONATIONS

It's especially important to reduce waste at Christmas. A time when waste from food, decorations and wrapping paper soar! Many of us also get unwanted gifts at Christmas. Gifts we wouldn't have chosen ourselves. You don't have to leave unwanted gifts at the back of a cupboard. Whether it's an item you already own, could never use, or one that just doesn't suit your family. Our Lady of Grace School would welcome any donation throughout January. We will make very good use of anything you can spare. Your donation could be donated to the school board game club, used for a wet break activity or part of a raffle to raise funds for the hard-working School Council. You can donate your gifts to us by handing them to your child's class teacher at any point during January. Please label 'January Gift Donation 2025'.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

I would like to thank you for all your support this year and to wish you and your families a happy & peaceful Christmas. It has been a challenging year at times but I feel it is important to remember all we have achieved. The record Y6 SATS results in July and the successful RE Inspection in December jump out for me but there are many to choose from. It is a genuine privilege to work with the fantastic staff team here at Our Lady of Grace and of course interact with your beautiful children each day. Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee year with the theme of 'Hope'. We often speak to the children about Hope here at school. Children are full of Hope and this is something we should encourage despite all the pain and suffering we often see in the world. This Christmas try to speak to your children about any hopes your family may have for 2025. Teachers will be inviting responses to this question throughout January. These are often interesting to look back on again next December!

SCHOOL OPENING

School re-opens at 8:50am on Wednesday, 8th January 2025. I look forward to seeing you all then.

Mr Collins

MR T A COLLINS BA (Hons) NPQH

Acting Headteacher

This is our school, let it be full of love, love for one another, love of life itself, but most of all, the love of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen



"Our Lady of Grace is an outstanding Catholic Primary School" - RE Inspection

"Pupils enjoy belonging to this school community" - Ofsted Inspection

