



Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School
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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2025

SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

The Reconciliation Assembly/Evening led by Y3 (attended by scores of parents) was perfect. A lovely way to continue our journey to Holy Communion. Thank you to Fr. Phillip & Fr. Stephen for their support.

LENTEN WALK

This week we have started our Lenten Walks. In the run up to Easter we are hoping to walk 7000 metres. As we walk we will be thinking about God's wonderful world and how we can prepare for Easter. We are marking the end of our walking challenge with an own clothes day on Friday 11th April. We are asking for a £2 donation with all money going to CAFOD. CAFOD visited school yesterday and showed the children how the money donated would be used to buy children in Kenya chickens so they can also have eggs this Easter. (I learnt that a lot of our children love scrambled eggs!). The children will be walking around the school x-country course once (1km) on seven separate days. Lots of good weather forecast which is great.

SHARED BREAKFAST

It is amazing how a simple thing like sharing breakfast with your family (and teachers) in school each Friday (after Lenten Mass) can be so special for a child. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this. This morning we had so many families join us the atmosphere at breakfast was lovely. We have two Friday Masses left before the Easter Break, please try to join us. Coffee, Tea & Cornflakes available. Or bring your own.

WORLD BOOK DAY

On March 6th we held one of the best assemblies we have ever held for World Book Day. The interactive element so skilfully added to the reading of Bedtime Stories by our teachers and the sight of 300 children leaving school with colourful helium balloons to celebrate uniqueness are memories we will treasure.

POETRY RECITALS

Across the school children have been performing poetry. This was so successful, we arranged an outing for our most enthusiastic poets. They visited St. Michael's Whitefield and recited their poetry in a special assembly (they also listened to pupils from St. Michael's perform). One of our Y6 boys actually wrote his own poem for the event!

RHS AWARD

I am very proud to announce that Mrs. Smith and her Gardening Team have been awarded the Gold Award by the RHS. The prize money is being spent on flowers and plants for the school grounds (you may have seen the new blossom trees at the main entrance). We are all looking forward to the peace and serenity beautiful plants and flowers can bring to a school.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

The staff from the British Museum visited (virtually) Our Lady of Grace to deliver a personalised History lesson to our Y3 & Y4 children. It really was excellent. The children had the opportunity to explore some of the museum's treasures and ask questions directly to the experts from the comfort of the Hall. Mrs Poole (History Lead) organised the event and has now created a link between Our Lady of Grace and this great institution of learning which we will benefit from for years to come.

SCHOOL SPORT

What a month for sport. More great tournament performances for our footballers. Last night the girls won another trophy taking home the Prestwich & Whitefield Gold Cup. This follows on from their previous success. If you are yet to see the article published in the Bury Times - Google 'Bury Times Our Lady of Grace' it is a great read. We have also had several fantastic results in the Netball League & the thriving Chess Club now welcomes a record number of pupils, learning Chess benefits children in so many ways. We are looking forward to the start of the Rounders and Athletics season (and of course sports day).

ST MONICA'S HIGH SCHOOL

We were delighted to see that the hard work being done at St. Monica's has been recognised by Ofsted. I would recommend you read their glowing report.' We are honoured to 'feed' into such a successful school. I had the pleasure of a guided tour from Mrs Keenan (Head) recently. Families should be reassured that as their child attends Our Lady of Grace they have the option of a place at such a loving & innovative school. St. Monica's is the top performing High School in Prestwich & Whitefield.

ONLINE SAFETY

News items/TV shows have drawn attention to dangers children can face online. Below I have listed some key rules which young children should follow closely. Miss Skarratt, our Online Safety Lead, has also updated the school website 'Key Information' 'Online Safety' with a wealth of information for parents. As a parent of two teenagers, I can recommend the App Qustodio (I have no affiliation and there are others available) Qustodio costs around £40 per year but can provide a welcome peace of mind.

- Never post personal pictures or reveal personal information.
- Never agree to meet in person with anyone you have met online.
- Never respond to anything threatening/scary/hurtful and tell an adult.
- Only go online when an adult is nearby and can see what you are doing.

RISING 3's

If you know of a child who will be 3 by March 31st 2025 and is looking for a school place from April. Tell them to give us a ring. I would be more than happy to give them a guided tour of our wonderful school.

CARS ON HIGHFIELD ROAD & WILLOW ROAD

Please take care when parking near school. Children are difficult to see. I have received some extremely concerning reports of near misses. School has contacted the council who have agreed to increase patrols and asked people who witness dangerous parking near school to email: carparking@bury.go.uk

NEW DATES ADDED

The Office is working hard to support busy families by ensuring that details of events etc. are added to the website calendar as early as possible. **Visit the Calendar Section & Click Subscribe to our Live Calendar.** There will be a Calendar of Events distributed for Summer Term (closer to Easter), but the online calendar already has some dates added (including the date of your child's Summer Trip).

PTA 200 CLUB DRAW

The response has been overwhelming. I can announce that 'Draw 1' will take place during the Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday 9th April. Your individual number will be emailed soon. The cash prizes will be available to collect from the Office that day! All winners will be telephoned and the results will be put on the PTA WhatsApp Community Group (see below). Although it is too late to enter Draw 1, You have until March 31st to Enter Draw 2. Simply set up a monthly standing order of £5 using the details below and the PTA will be in touch. Thanks to this initiative we have been able to purchase new football nets for the school field. Your generosity is already improving the experiences helping our children.

PTA 200 CLUB GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Sort Code: 01-07-20 Account: 04001990

Reference – (Child's Name)

£5 Monthly Standing Order

Still time to enter for Draw 2. Thank you.

PTA WhatsApp Community

If you would like to be included.

Please email your number to the PTA

olog.pta@outlook.com

Please reference your child's name.

Many of the things reported here can be seen (with photographs) on the school website 'Latest News Section' or you can join over 100 parents and follow us on X @OLOGPrestwich. Enjoy the weekend!

Tom Collins

MR T A COLLINS BA (Hons) NPQH
ACTING HEADTEACHER

"Pupils at Our Lady of Grace Achieve Highly" - Ofsted 2023
"Christ is at the Centre of the School" – Salford Diocese 2024

