



## Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School

### Mr Collins' Newsletter February 2026

#### FATHER PHILIP

After three years of dedication, Father Phillip is moving on to a new challenge in London. Since joining us, he has transformed our parish buildings and been the spiritual heart of our community. We will miss his reflective homilies, which provided us with wisdom and inspiration. We wish him all the very best. Over the coming weeks our new Priest Father Gerard will be settling in. We look forward to an exciting future together.

#### LENT

Our school community is preparing to enter the Season of Lent, a forty-day journey of reflection, renewal, and growth. This year, we are encouraging children to think of Lent not just as a time to "give something up," but as an opportunity to "give something back." As Father Gerard settles in, we will not be holding Lenten Breakfasts after Mass. Instead families are invited to join their children for a Lenten 'Stay & Pray session, dates below:

- **Reception** – 9:15am Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February
- **Y1 & Y2** – 9:15am Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March
- **Y3 & Y4** – 9:15am Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- **Y5 & Y6** – 9:15am Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

#### MRS ALOU

The lovely Mrs Alou is due to start her maternity leave soon. Mrs Alou will be such a great mum and we wish her all the best at this exciting time. I am delighted to announce that Mrs. Sinclair, a highly experienced and familiar face, will be leading Y3/4A. Mrs Sinclair has already been spending time getting to know the children.

#### AN EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SCHOOL

Mental Health is our focus in February. Our theme this year is "Connecting for Wellbeing." Students will participate in sessions designed to identify emotions and build a "toolbox" of coping strategies. Teachers have completed the first part of training and we are keen to put what we have learnt into action.

#### CHESTER ZOO

Our eldest pupils had a wild time at Chester Zoo. From watching the majestic elephants to learning about conservation efforts in the rainforest habitats, the behaviour of our Year 5 and 6 pupils was first class. What a fantastic opportunity for them to see their science curriculum come to life.

#### YOUNG VOICES

A huge "Well Done" to our school choir who performed at the Young Voices concert. Singing alongside thousands of other children in a professional arena is no small feat! Their hard work during rehearsals truly paid off. Thank you to the staff and parents who supported our superstars.

#### PTA Club Winner

The January draw took place today (by a Y5 child). The winner is Mrs Harrington (We miss you Ursula!) – Congratulations! Please call to the office to receive your winnings £60! And please stay for a coffee.

**You have until 28<sup>th</sup> February to enter our February draw.** Thank you to everyone who supports the 200 club.

Thank you for your support & say a prayer for me next week.

*Tom Collins*

**Mr T Collins BA (Hons) NPQH**

Acting Headteacher

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

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